



## CHAMPS TIMES TWO

**EHS BASKETBALL GHOSTS WIN COUNTY TITLE, LADY GHOSTS EXTEND THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP REIGN**



**DOUBLE TROPHIES:** Eastside Boys Basketball Head Coach Marquis Webb, holding a trophy on the left, and Eastside Lady Ghosts Head Coach Brandon Pilgrim, with trophy on the right, savor their county championships surrounded by their teams after the Passaic County Tournament Finals. *Photo courtesy of Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly*

February 18, 2023 just might go down in Passaic County history as the day of the Ghosts.

On that day, the Eastside Boys Basketball Ghosts handily beat the Wayne Valley Indians, 66-37, to win the team's first Passaic County Championship since 2016. A couple of hours later, the Lady Ghosts won their second consecutive Passaic County title in a thrilling 50-39 victory against the Wayne Hills Lady Patriots, who had held a commanding lead at halftime.

But the winning didn't stop on that day for either team. Both teams headed to the NJSIAA Sectional Finals for North 1, Group 4. The Lady Ghosts narrowly lost amid controversy to Union City on Monday. The boys are at the Graveyard against Ridgewood today, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

For info and tickets, visit <https://www.njsiaa.org/tickets>



Bryce Stokes



Symiaha "Koolaid" Brown-Cobb

# EHS FOOTBALL'S ELIJAH CARROLL SIGNS WITH EAST STROUDSBURG



Elijah Carroll, center, surrounded by his parents, coaches, school and district officials after he announced his commitment to attend and play for East Stroudsburg in the fall. *Photo by Dan Juan*

In keeping with a National Signing Day tradition, Eastside Football's Elijah Carroll and his proud parents sat at a table with three hats, each bearing the logos of universities that had made offers to the star returner for next year – Alvernia College, East Stroudsburg, and Pace.

After Carroll made some welcoming remarks to the group of supporters in the Eastside gymnasium, he put the East Stroudsburg University (ESU) hat on his head. Almost on cue, his mother, Monesia Jones, and his father, Rufus Carroll, unzipped their jackets to reveal their East Stroudsburg t-shirts. His grandparents, Henry and Victoria Rollins, were close by watching proudly.

"Throughout my years of existence on this earth, it has been my dream to get to choose the college of my choice – not to only play

sports but to get a top-rated education as well," said Carroll.

Before he signed his letter of commitment to ESU Carroll thanked the many people who helped him achieve his dream, including his coaches, his family, and his Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, his teachers, and his mentors.

He also thanked his teammates and wished them well.

"I hope to see more of you in the same position," he said.

Carroll has delivered many thrilling plays during the 2022 football season, including running Piscataway's opening kickoff back 90 yards for a touchdown only seconds into the opening game of the playoffs – the first Eastside home playoff game in many years. Carroll's prowess on the field landed him on the first teams for All Passaic County and All Liberty League. His community service off of the field helped him garner the Super Football Conference's Young Man of the Year Award.

Carroll's work ethic has helped him score in the classroom as well. He currently has a 3.84 grade point average and has been on the honor roll for the first and second marking periods at International High School, where he is taking a mix of honors and International Baccalaureate classes.

"He has worked since he was 8 years old for this time to come," said Carroll's mother, Monesia Jones. His father, Rufus Carroll, who played running back and outside linebacker for Eastside before he graduated in 1999, beamed with pride in his son.

"It's a very special day," he said.

Eastside Head Football Coach James Magazine said he has known Elijah Carroll since he was five years old.

"He's just tough – hard as nails," Magazine said. Acknowledging Carroll's parents, the coach said, "They did a great job of raising this young man."

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer came to offer her congratulations to Carroll and his family.

"Elijah Carroll is the perfect example of a student-athlete," Shafer said. "He does his absolute best whether he is in the classroom or on the football field. I congratulate him, his parents and his grandparents. And I want to thank all of the coaches, his athletic supervisor, the teachers, the principals, and the administrators who helped Elijah achieve his dream of getting into the college of his choice."



# ONE SQUARE MILE INITIATIVE LAUNCHES AT EHS

**\$1 MILLION DODGE GRANT TO MSU WILL LEAD TO EHS BECOMING FULL SERVICE SCHOOL**



From left, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, District Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau, Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh, Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer, MSU President Jonathan Koppel, PEF Executive Director Rosie Grant, Eastside Principal of Operations Edgard Nieves, Dodge Foundation CEO Tanuje Dehne  
*Photo by Dan Juan*

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer welcomed leaders of Montclair State University (MSU) and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, as well as many community partners and local dignitaries, to Eastside High School on Feb. 2 for the launch of the One Square Mile initiative.

One Square Mile is MSU's initiative to aid Paterson's community development efforts. The Dodge Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to the university, which will use it to establish Full Service Community School services at Eastside High School.

"Eastside students and their families will have access to health care, counseling, academic support, and many other services right at school," said Shafer. "This not only makes these services conveniently available to students and families, but it also helps ensure our students' success in school. When students succeed, the whole community succeeds. I want to thank everyone at Montclair State University, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, our cooperating agencies, and our professionals here at Paterson Public Schools who worked to make this initiative happen."

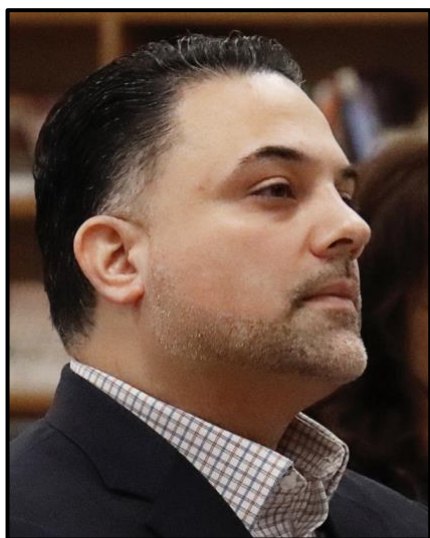
The announcement followed the award of a \$2.5 million federal grant to provide Full Service Community Schools services at Public School No. 16 and the Alonzo Tambua Moody Academy. The district's other Full

Service Community schools are Public School No. 5, the Senator Frank L. Lautenberg School, Public School No. 15, the New Roberto Clemente School, the Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology, John F. Kennedy High School, Public School No. 2, and the Joseph A. Taub School.

“The One Square Mile project starts with the community articulating its needs and goals, and the University then working alongside community members to achieve those objectives by drawing upon its capacity and existing efforts,” said Montclair President Jonathan Koppell. “It is not about a university coming in and acting like we have all the answers. We can maximize Montclair’s potential, including creating fantastic learning opportunities for students and faculty, by collaborating around a shared vision of what is possible; we have found outstanding partners in Paterson and Paterson Public Schools.”



From left, Health N Wellness, LLC President Denise Hajjar, St. Paul’s CDC Executive Director Richard Williams, PEF Executive Director Rosie Grant, New Destiny Executive Director Caroline McCombs, Paterson Alliance Executive Director Inge Spungen, Chosen Generation Community Corporation CEO Willie Moody, and Paterson Alliance Program Manager Shanikwa Lemon. *Photo by Dan Juan*



BOE Commissioner  
Eddie Gonzalez

stands ready to assist in making the One Square Mile project a success.”

“The One Square Mile project is the perfect way to bring community members together to collaborate for a unified neighborhood,” said Paterson Alliance Executive Director Inge Spungen.

“We thank the Dodge Foundation and Montclair State University for their belief in the collective impact that can be accomplished through the One Square Mile initiative,” said St. Paul’s Community Development Corporation Executive Director Richard Williams. “As an organization that has a longstanding commitment to the city of Paterson, its residents, and the neighborhoods encompassing the One Square Mile initiative, we firmly believe that this work will provide ‘Hope for Today’ while ‘Building a Better Tomorrow.’”

“We are proud to support organizations and initiatives focused on addressing the root cause and repair of structural racism and inequity across the state and are eager to see the impact of this community-led initiative between Montclair State University and the City of Paterson,” said Dodge Foundation President Tanuja Dehne.

“This initiative is community-led. It’s focused on education, health, and economic opportunity,” said Rosie Grant, Executive Director of the Paterson Education Fund. “The best part about it is that we’re looking at all of that through the lens of equity. We’re bringing equity to the children and families of Paterson. This is an investment in our future, our schools, and our children.”

“Tier1 Recovery loves this wonderful opportunity to partner with Montclair University and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation on this amazing partnership that would continue to assess the needs of the Paterson community,” said Chosen Generation Community Corporation Chief Executive Officer Willie Moody. “Tier1 Recovery, a pillar in the 4th Ward,



# T.I.E.S. TO THE FUTURE

**JOYOUS OFFICIAL OPENING FOR PROGRAM  
THAT HELPS STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL  
NEEDS TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE**



**Viver Mi Mida:** T.I.E.S. student Gerald Pena belts out his rendition of the Marc Anthony hit at the T.I.E.S. program's official opening. *Photo by Dan Juan*

To help students develop skills for independent living, the T.I.E.S. Program has full-scale kitchen, dining room, bedroom, and living space,

Many of the decorations and signs that were displayed at today's opening ceremony were created by T.I.E.S. Program students in the program's state-of-the-art in-house print shop with state-of-the-art equipment.

The T.I.E.S. Program also provides parents and families with much-needed community resources. Former Passaic County Surrogate Judge Bernice Toledo and current Passaic County Surrogate Judge Zoila Cassanova have given presentations to parents on how to obtain guardianship for students with unique needs.

Every month, the state's Division of Development Disabilities and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services give presentations to parents and guardians about the available financial, respite, and support resources.

Paterson Public Schools officials and educators at S.T.A.R.S Academy officially opened the Transitioning for Independence, Employment, and Success – or T.I.E.S. – program on Feb. 10th. The program helps students with special needs, ages 14 to 21, transition to independent living.

"Today is a special celebration of our students with special needs and their ability to transition into independent lives," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "They are talented, capable, and they want what everyone wants: the chance to develop their abilities, realize a purpose in life, and live independently as adults contributing to the good in our society."

The T.I.E.S. Program began in 2021 after Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Cheryl Coy observed programs in other districts and realized Paterson Public Schools needed to provide more for students with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood.

The T.I.E.S. Program partners with 12 organizations to place students into worksites including the Central Office Building at Paterson Public Schools, Eva's Village, the Paterson Museum, the Marshall's store at the Center City Mall, the Price Rite supermarket at the Center City Mall, the Stop and Shop supermarket in Wayne, the copy center and the culinary department at Passaic County Community College. Some students who have graduated from the T.I.E.S. Program have been offered jobs by Marshall's, Popeye's, Stop and Shop and many other locations.

One T.I.E.S. Program alumnus is currently a student at William Paterson University.



Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Coy

Please see "T.I.E.S." on p. 6.

**T.I.E.S.** continued from p. 5.

developmental challenges has come to share mental health and daily living support resources with students' families.

Circle of Care, an organization that provides care management services for youth and families in Passaic County experiencing emotional, behavioral, and



**It's Official!:** Principal Dr. Natalie Heard-Hackett, student Gerald Pena, and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Coy cut the ribbon to officially open the T.I.E.S. program. *Photo by Dan Juan*



**Celebrate Good Times:** Superintendent Shafer joins T.I.E.S. staff and students in dancing at the program's official opening. *Photo by Dan Juan*

## IHS WINS FIFTH COLLEGE BOARD AWARD FOR FEMALE DIVERSITY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

For the fifth consecutive year, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School (IHS) has received the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award in recognition of the school's having a female majority of students enrolled in the AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course.

A total of 33 students enrolled in AP CSP during the 2021-2022 school year, with 28 being female. The AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award is given to schools that have either 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses, or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding the percentage of the school's female population. Only 832 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award out of the institutions that offered the AP CSP in 2021-2022.

"We may have come to expect this recognition every year, but we never take it for granted," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "That is why I am grateful to the principal, Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion, the teachers, the administrators, and the students for maintaining this encouraging school culture that leads to excellence. I applaud the young women who enrolled in the challenging AP CSP course, and I thank their parents and families for supporting their daughters in all of their academic endeavors."

"For years, we have offered the AP Computer Science Principles course as part of the International Baccalaureate program, at a time when just a little more than half of the high schools in the country can offer computer science courses," said Dr. Forfia-Dion. "That is why I thank Martha Cruz, the AP Computer Science Principles teacher, for all of her efforts. Making the course available to young women and men is just one example of how we encourage our students to discover what they are truly capable of accomplishing."



# PPS, KHS PARTNER WITH CARPENTERS UNION ON CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION

STUDENTS IN KHS' CONSTRUCTION TRADES PATHWAY TO GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The district has partnered with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters to provide a comprehensive carpentry education to John F. Kennedy High School students in the construction trades pathway.

"The announcement we're making today is not just about building buildings or houses. It's about building futures," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer at a Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> press event at Kennedy High School. "We know there is a demand for carpenters. Perhaps more importantly, we know that the people who work in the construction trades have high rates of job satisfaction. The students who are here with us today are on the precipice of starting tremendous lives, and with the help of the carpenters union, they will have an even better chance of achieving those lives."

Using the "Career Connection" curriculum that was created by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, students will be able to earn college credit as they broaden their knowledge and skill set, preparing them for future apprenticeships and careers.

Kennedy High School Principal of Instruction Jorge Osoria hosted the press event which included Board Commissioner Eddie Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren, Construction Pathway Supervisor Martine Grant, and three construction Pathway students: Angel Cruz, Jahniah Hudson, and Carlos Gutierrez.

"Your advocacy to bring the Carpenters' Union 'Career Connections' curriculum to Kennedy High School shows that you all care about the good-paying career paths union trades bring to everyday families," said Tom Wyzga, an EASRCC council representative.

Paterson Education Association (PEA) President John McEntee and Vice President Charles Ferrer also participated in the press event to announce the PEA's generous donation of new work boots to Kennedy High School students preparing for the construction trades.

"This is exactly how partnerships should operate," said McEntee. "As I look at our students wearing the work boots that were donated by the PEA, I see students who are going to go out into the workplace. They're going to further their education. And they're going to make a great, great difference hopefully in the city of Paterson for a long time to come."

Mayor Andre Sayegh, whose father is a 78-year-old carpenter, said the future for carpenters is bright in the City of Paterson.

"As long as Paterson is in growth mode, we're going to need carpenters," said Sayegh, putting his hands on the shoulders of two students in hard hats and work boots who were standing near the podium.



Student Angel Cruz speaks flanked by, from left, Tom Wyzga, Charles Ferrer, John McEntee, and Jorge Osoria. Photo by Dan Juan



Superintendent Shafer addresses Angel Cruz. Behind them are Supervisor Martine Grant and student Carlos Gutierrez. Photo by Dan Juan

Please see "Carpenters" on p. 8.



**Carpenters** continued from p. 7.

"I'm proud of this most recent partnership. Carpenters matter. Carpenters count. Because you can't build anything without carpenters," the mayor said.

Assistant Superintendent Warren speaks. Behind her are students Angel Cruz and Jahniah Hudson. *Photo by Dan Juan*

## PPS, ST. JOSEPH'S MEDICAL CENTER TO LAUNCH STUDENT SHADOWING

### STUDENTS WILL DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH CARE RELATED FIELDS

Paterson Public Schools and St. Joseph's University Medical Center have entered a partnership that, starting on May 3rd, will provide district high school students with opportunities to shadow a variety of professionals in healthcare-related fields.

"There is a whole lot more opportunity in the healthcare field than becoming a doctor or a nurse. That is what we want our students to discover through participating in this Shadowing Program," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "I want to thank the Board Commissioners for supporting this initiative and St. Joseph's University Medical Center President & CEO Kevin Slavin and Vice President Kenneth Morris, Jr. and everyone they work with for their partnership in making these valuable opportunities available to our students."

"It is not uncommon for adolescents to be undecided about their future career choices. This Shadowing Program at our city's largest healthcare facility can help students get closer to making their career choices," said Board of Education President Nakima Redmon. "We on the Board of Education applaud this initiative that helps put students on a path to self-reliance and serving the community, and we encourage others like it with other entities in the City of Paterson."



"What better way is there to learn about a job than to see an expert doing it," says Kevin Slavin, President & CEO of St. Joseph's Health. "Job shadowing is an excellent opportunity to do just that, and St. Joseph's is pleased to offer these experiences to Paterson students as they

consider the many career paths available in healthcare."

The student shadowing program will be held in 8 to 10-week cycles that will allow a maximum of 10 students – 11th- and 12th-graders – to participate per cycle. The program will be divided into two tracks: a college-bound track and a non-college-bound track. The college-bound track will expose students to fields including case management, social work, radiology, and respiratory care. The non-college-bound track will expose students to fields including security, food services, and patient services.

Students will participate for two hours a day and two days a week. High school guidance counselors will play a major role in the selection of students. A district coordinator will help recruit the students, schedule the sessions, and arrange transportation for the students to the hospital.

Students will not be paid for participating in the shadowing program. However, they will receive certificates of completion at the end of their service. Also, at the end of the 10 weeks, the hospital's talent acquisition coordinator will notify guidance counselors of any open positions. Students who participate in the Shadowing Program will be granted interviews for any positions for which they are qualified.



# EHS GHOSTS' STOKES, BROWN HIT 1000 POINTS



Bryce Stokes, center, with, from left, his father Jamal Stokes, Head Coach Marquis Webb, his mother Darrell Medley-Stokes, and EHS Principal of Operations Edgard Nieves.

*Photo courtesy of staff*

The Eastside High School Boys Basketball team's Bryce Stokes and Preston Brown, Jr. achieved 1,000 points scored during their high school careers during the past month. Both players are seniors who play guard.

Stokes reached 1,000 points during the team's game against the Clifton Mustangs on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which Eastside won, 73-51.

Brown reached the milestone on February 14<sup>th</sup> during the team's game against Wayne Hills, which Eastside won, 90-31.

Superintendent Shafer called both players to congratulate them and, at a recent Board of Education meeting, congratulated Stokes' father, Jamal Stokes, his mother, Darrell Medley-Stokes, and Brown's mother, Nikiha Stacker.

Shafer also express her gratitude to Eastside Boys Basketball Coach Marquis Webb, Eastside Athletic Supervisor T.J. Hill, and Assistant Superintendent David Cozart for everything they did to support both players in their achievements.



Preston Brown, Jr. with Head Coach Marquis Webb, left, and his mother, Nikiha Stacker

*Photo courtesy of staff.*

## LADY GHOST GOES TO SUPER BOWL

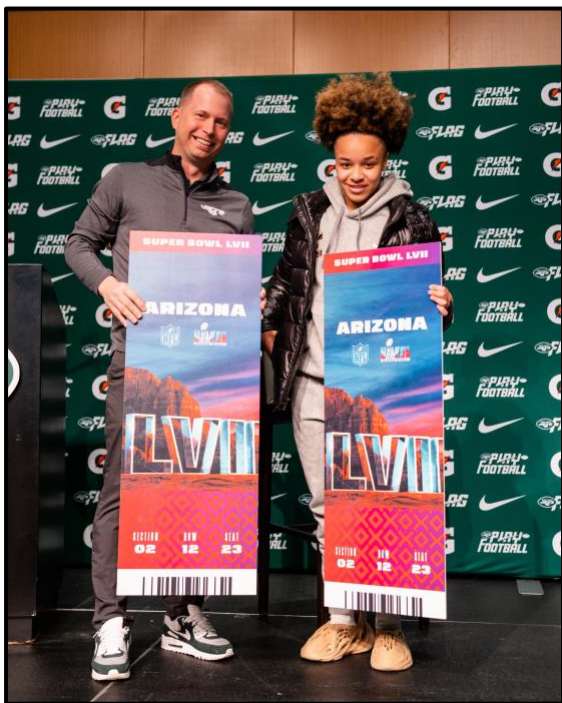
### ARIANNA HAYNES-BARKSDALE REPRESENTS EHS' FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

Amidst all of the fanfare and excitement of Super Bowl LVII, one of the Eastside Lady Ghosts' guards was among the faces in the crowd, courtesy of the New York Jets.

That's because Arianna Haynes-Barksdale not only plays for the Eastside Girls Basketball Team. She also plays for the Eastside Flag Football Ghosts. Haynes-Barksdale was among a group of flag football players who were welcomed to Met Life Stadium at the end of January for the announcement of the expansion of the Girls High School Flag Football League. It was at that event where she was awarded two tickets to Super Bowl LVII.

"Ever since I was young, I was basically growing up around guys who had been playing," said Haynes-Barksdale, [in a flag football promotional video released last month](#) by the New York Jets organization. "My brothers, they had been playing since they've been born too. I fell in love with the sport."

Haynes-Barksdale is not alone in being a young woman in love with football. Her teammate, Jayleen Valera, see the chance to play flag football as a way to build greater equity between men and women. "People are seeing that women are also capable of doing the things that guys are able to do," Chambers said in the video.



Arianna Haynes-Barksdale, right, and NY Jets VP of Community Relations Jesse Linder. *Photo courtesy of NY Jets*

Eastside High School got in on the ground floor of the increasingly popular sport of Girls Flag Football as one of the Girls High School Flag Football League's original eight teams in 2021. More than 100 high school teams in Long Island, upstate New York, and New Jersey will be a part of that league this spring.

Eastside Lady Ghosts Basketball Head Coach Brandon Pilgrim and Athletic Supervisor, T.J. Hill are slated to be the coaches of the Eastside Lady Ghosts Flag Football Team. About 25 student-athletes are on the roster with their first game scheduled to be on April 13th at Nutley High School. Their first home game will be on April 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Bauerle Field.

Meanwhile, Kennedy High School has established a team of its own coached by Football Head Coach Ron Jackson. A meeting of interested student-athletes was held on Feb. 15th at Kennedy High School.

"The establishment of Girls Flag Football Teams at our high schools is creating more opportunities for our young women to be athletically competitive," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "I want to thank everyone who worked to make these opportunities available to our student-athletes including Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, our athletic supervisors T.J. Hill and Scott Durham, and our coaches, Brandon Pilgrim and Ron Jackson. We're looking forward to cheering our young women on in the upcoming season this spring."

## PPS' FIRST TRANSITION FAIR PROVIDES RESOURCES, INFO FOR PARENTS



The PPS Department of Special Education held the district's first Transition Fair on Feb. 11th, drawing dozens of parents and guardians of students with special needs.

Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Cheryl Coy and District Transition Coordinator Crystal Cox-Tober planned the event that featured representatives from many service providers as well as remarks from Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, who is president of Children's Aid and Family Services, Robert Artis, a family liaison from the state's Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Jerisa Maseko from the Arc of New Jersey.

*Photos by Paul Brubaker*



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



**Congressman Payne Visits School 7** U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ-10) visited Public School No. 7 to celebrate Black History Month. The congressman was welcomed by the students, Principal Pamela Powell and PPS Director of Alternative Education Nicole Payne, who is Payne's sister. Their father, the late U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, Sr., made history as the first African-American to be elected to represent New Jersey constituents in Congress. *Photos by Dan Juan.*



**Storyteller Makes Black History Come Alive.** In honor of Black History Month, storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston visited Public School No. 28/PAGT on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and conducted an assembly program for students in grades 5, 6 and 7. Alston focused on traditional and contemporary stories from African and African-American oral and cultural traditions. After the assembly, Alston taught workshops on storytelling to all the fifth-graders, which allowed them to write and share their own stories with the class. Alston's visit was arranged as part of a program with Ramapo College of New Jersey that is funded by the N.J. State Council on the Arts. *Photo courtesy of staff.*



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**Future Poets.** Public School No. 1 commemorated Black History Month with Talena Lachelle Queen, Eastside High School teacher and City of Paterson Poet Laureate. Queen visited, read poetry to the students, and listened to original pieces written by each grade's representative poet. Queen was welcomed by Principal JoAnn Barca and School 1 ELA, Social Studies and Health Teacher Lynette Pinckney, who arranged the event. *Photos by Dan Juan.*



**Best Version Of Me Mentorship** Public School No. 21 Parent Coordinator Dr. Lilisa Mimms launched a new mentorship program for young adolescent girls called the Best Version Of Me. At the program's first event, special guests included Assemblywoman Shanique Speight of Newark, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter of Paterson, Superintendent Eileen Shafer, and Principal Joanne Riviello. All of them spoke with students about feminine hygiene and the importance of making sure all women have access to feminine hygiene products. *Photos by Dan Juan.*







**JAT School Students Start Spreading The News** Students at the Joseph A. Taub School have started their regular news broadcast called, “Boulevard News.” The program began last fall under the direction of JAT Principal of Instruction Rebecca Cecala and teacher Diana Gerges. Students involved in the recent episode were Chief Editors Allyson Mendoza and Matthew Sanchez; Editors Annie Baldwin, Alexis Jimenez, Christopher Valdez; Head Anchor Deana Nguyen-Soto, Paterson News Reporter Samaya Leonard, U.S. News Reporter Yonel Rivera De Jesus, International News Reporter Rahima Rahman, Entertainment News Reporter Jarinett Mot, Weather Reporter Tamir Hussain, and Sports Reporter Allyson Mendoza. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the latest installment of “Boulevard News.” *Photo by Paul Brubaker*



**School 18 Food Drive.** Students at Public School No. 18 participated in a schoolwide food donations drive in December to benefit Eva’s Village. Students showed their great spirit of humanity and were eager to share, according to Teacher Tanya White, who led the food drive. It was the school’s second consecutive year in holding the food drive. White thanked the school’s administration for their support of the project. *Photos courtesy of staff.*



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**Lady Knights Take Wrestling Honors** Delia Orozco and Solaris Paul both placed in the NJSIAA Girls Wrestling Region tournament becoming the first two girls in KHS history to qualify for the state tournament. Solaris Paul beat three opponents before making it to the finals and taking second place. Delia Orozco won her first two matches and lost in the semifinals which forced her to wrestle back and take third place. *Photos courtesy of staff.*

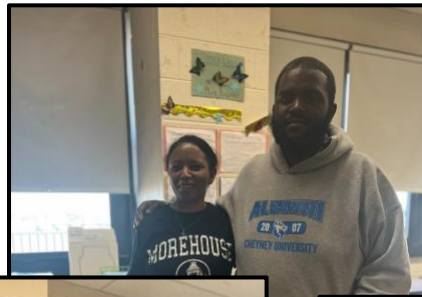


**Lulu Lifts School 21 Spirits** Students of Erica Bernard-Parker's Class at Public School No. 21 received a special guest in early February, Lulu the therapy dog. Lulu and her owner, Robert D'Amico, visited students who are learning to cope with the loss of a loved one. D'Amico, a Paterson native who is a volunteer with Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc., will bring Lulu to School 21 twice a month for the rest of the school year. *Photos by Dan Juan*



**BHM Panel.** Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly hosted his annual Black History Month panel on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at Rosa Parks High School. This year's panelists were NJDOE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Christopher Irving, NJ Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Brian Bridges, MLK Principal Dr. Jalyne Lyde, world-renowned model Chris Collins, and Grammy-Award winning producer, Just Blaze. *Photos by Paul Brubaker.*





**HBCU Pride at MLK** One of the ways the MLK Educational Complex celebrated Black History Month was to hold an HBCU Pride Day, when staff wore sweatshirts with the names of Historically Black Colleges & Universities. *Photos courtesy of staff.*



**EHS Marks BHM with Quiz Bowl, Original Play.** Eastside High School students in John Mathis, Susan Little and Diana Scimeca's classes competed in a Jeopardy-style Black History Month quiz bowl on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. On Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, social studies, ELA, and ESL students presented an original student-written play about Dr. Ossian Sweet. Sweet was the grandson of a former slave born in the Jim Crow South who worked and studied to become a doctor. *Photos courtesy of staff.*



## Important Dates

<b>Mar. 3</b>	Early Dismissal for Students PD for Staff
<b>Mar. 8</b>	Board of Education Workshop Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Joseph A. Taub School, 202 Union Blvd., Paterson
<b>Mar. 15</b>	Board of Education Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Virtual meeting.
<b>Mar. 17</b>	Early Dismissal for Students PEA PD for Staff

## Board of Education Meetings

The Mar. 8th Board of Education meeting will be held in-person at 6:00 p.m. at the Joseph A. Taub (JAT) Middle School, 202 Union Avenue. It will also be live streamed at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents). Those who want to give public comment must do so in person. They should register when they arrive at the JAT School for the meeting.

The Mar. 15th Board of Education meeting will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents). Those who want to give public comment should register in advance by emailing [public@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:public@paterson.k12.nj.us) by 5:00 p.m. on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>. Participants are asked to provide their name, address, and phone number from which they will be calling.

***PPS Beat*** 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).