

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

April 2022

A Decade of Ivy

IHS's Isabela Gonzalez is PPS' 10th Ivy Leaguer in 10 years



Isabela Gonzalez Photo by Paul Brubaker

International High School Senior Isabela Gonzalez has been accepted to Harvard University, marking a districtive achievement not only for her but also the district. Gonzalez is the latest in a series of district students to be accepted to elite schools and she is the district's tenth student to be accepted at an Ivy League university in 10 years.

"I have dreamed of Harvard since I was eight years old," said Gonzalez. "The campus, the chance to work and study under Nobel Prize winners, and the many opportunities that come

with attending Harvard are all part of why I want to attend the school."

Gonzalez said she intends to major in political science "with the goal of one day running for President of the United States." Her road to the White House – or at least her foray into government – began as she interned for N.J. State Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter.

She is a Paterson native with two younger sisters whose mother, an accountant who will graduate college in May 2023, immigrated to the United States from Venezuela.

"Isabela has achieved something outstanding by being accepted at Harvard University, said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "She has brought great pride to our school district, International High School, and the City of Paterson. I congratulate her, as well as her mother, on this great accomplishment."

"Isabela has worked very hard during her years at International High School, and I'm so glad to see it all pay off with her acceptance to Harvard University," International High School Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion. "I'm looking forward to all she will accomplish at Harvard and beyond."

PPS Ivy League Acceptances 2012-2022

Isabella Gonzalez
IHS, Class of 2022
Harvard University

Stefany Morales
IHS, Class of 2022
University of Pennsylvania

Mackiah Henry
Kennedy High School (KHS)-BTMF Academy
Class of 2021
Columbia University

Iffat Anika
KHS- SAT Academy, Class of 2021
Yale University

Cindy Munoz
IHS, Class of 2020
University of Pennsylvania

Nicole Velecela
IHS, Class of 2020
Cornell University

Amaya Perez
IHS, Class of 2019
University of Pennsylvania

Jefferson Mendoza
KHS- STEM Academy, Class of 2017
Dartmouth College

Frank Carlos Castro
Kennedy High School, Class of 2015
Columbia University

Amir Budhai
KHS- STEM Academy, Class of 2012
Columbia University

JFK-BTMF Teacher Awarded NEH Fellowship

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Martine Grant will study Japanese-American incarceration at the site of one of the 10 internment camps opened during World War II

Martine Grant, a teacher at John F. Kennedy High School's Schools of Business, Technology, Marketing, and Finance (BTMF), has been selected to study the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II at the site of one of the 10 internment camps.



Martine Grant
Photo courtesy of staff

Through funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Grant will spend six days this summer in Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where more than 14,000 Japanese Americans were relocated from their homes and communities on the West Coast during the war.

There, Grant will learn about the Japanese American experience in the United States, the conditions that made it possible and the evacuation and incarceration itself, according to the NEH's website. The workshop will examine the incarceration's long-term effect on the Japanese American community and federal policies ranging from the formal apology approved by Congress in 1988 to immigration.

Grant is one of 72 out of more than 270 K-12 teachers who applied to be awarded this fellowship.

"As a Black, gay, female marketing teacher, I welcome opportunities to examine intersectionality and the many ways in which marketing and consumerism use minority groups; as well as the role of marketing in the commerce and politics of our evolving country," said Grant. "Learning more about the Japanese-American incarceration and how that continues to show up today culturally as well as in business, politics, and marketing is worth further exploration and I am excited about this opportunity and sharing it with my students."

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer congratulated Grant.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Ms. Grant that brings pride to Kennedy High School and BTMF," said Shafer. "Most importantly, Ms. Grant's students will benefit from her experience in Wyoming, and we're looking forward to seeing how she applies it to her teaching next year."

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- When referring to staff members, please include their first names.
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EHS Girls Softball Team Opens Season At The New Ray Lyde, Sr. Field

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Newly refurbished ballfield opens with ceremony honoring longtime youth sports coach



It was a chilly opening day for the Eastside Girls Softball Ghosts on Friday, April 1st, but hearts were warm and spirits were high as friends and family of Ray Lyde Sr. gathered before the game to officially open the newly refurbished ballfield that was named in his honor.

“This is long overdue,” said Director of Recreation Benjie Wimberly, who also serves as a New Jersey State Assemblyman. “This is our chance to honor a living legend here in the City of Paterson.”

The gathering at the left field wall included members of Lyde’s family, including his wife, Jeanette, and daughter, the Rev. Dr. Jalyn Lyde, a district administrator, son, Ray, Jr., and grandson, Amari. Another grandson, A’Khoury, is at the University of Wisconsin on a football scholarship.

Senior Pastor Ronald Lassiter of the Calvary Baptist Church gave an informal benediction before the plaque was bearing Lyde’s likeness and the words, “Player – Coach – Manager – Visionary.”

“This memorial field will stand for the great work he has done,” Lassiter said. Lyde was honored as the quintessential all-around athlete. An outstanding varsity football player at Eastside High School, he coached several teams in several sports including the Calvary Baptist Church Basketball team, the YMCA Church League, and winning the Northern New Jersey YMCA Church Championship.

Lyde was also an accomplished semi-pro baseball player who played for several teams – including the Linfante Aces, the Paterson Clippers, the East Orange Browns, the Paterson Phillies, and the Clifton Phillies. In 1970, he was named Sportsman of the Year by the Old Timers organization, and in 1985 he was inducted into the Bergen County Baseball Hall of Fame as an outfielder.

In 1982, Lyde co-founded the Paterson Instructional Midget Football League in which he coached hundreds of 11 to 14-year-old boys. His vision for the league was to create a feeding system for future Paterson high school football teams as well as to provide an opportunity for children to learn cheerleading. Under cloudy skies, the new artificial turf field done in Eastside’s colors – dark blue in the outfield and bright orange in the infield – shone extra-brightly. The work was completed by the City of Paterson’s Public Works after a ceremonial groundbreaking last summer. Wimberly recalled what it was like to play on the uneven and devoted dirt at the field that was called the Putnam Oval.

“You had to have some really good skills to cover a ground ball at Putnam Oval,” he said.

Please see, “Field”
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Field*Continued from page 3*

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer had words of praise for the new field.

"This is just beautiful," Shafer said. "What a great opportunity for Eastside High School's softball team to have the kind of ballfield that every student deserves to have."

Shafer had equally high praise for Lyde's many years of service.

"Thank you for everything you have done for all of the children of the City of Paterson," she said.

Lyde accepted the honors with humility and gratitude.

"I just want to say, thank you and I love you," he said.

A little later, Lyde threw out the opening pitch before the Ghosts' opening day game.



District, FBI Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking Dangers



Paterson Public Schools partnered with the FBI's Victim Services Division to present two mandatory online staff workshops earlier this month on the dangers of human trafficking. Sobering realities, debunked misconceptions, and information on how to identify victims were all a part of online workshops presented by Keyla M. Munoz, an FBI Victim Specialist for 19 years. One of the objectives of Munoz's workshop was to enlist the help of district staff in identifying human trafficking victims in Paterson. Munoz also presented an online workshop on human trafficking for parents on Thursday, April 14th in partnership with the district's Department of School Safety and Emergency Preparedness. All of the workshops were made possible with the help of Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes and Director of School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Dalton Price.

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School 21 Students Raise \$1,100 For UNICEF'S Relief Efforts In Ukraine

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer visited Public School No. 21 on April 11th where students raised \$1,100 for UNICEF's relief efforts to aid children affected by the crisis in Ukraine.



School 21 Principal JoAnne Riviello speaks to the media.
Photo by Daniel Juan

"Our kids understood the meaning of what was taking place over there [in Ukraine] and we strongly encouraged them to do their share," JoAnne Riviello, Principal of Public School No. 21 said to a TAP into Paterson reporter. "We raised \$1,100 in two weeks. It may not seem like a lot, but in our community, we think it's a sizable amount, and we're really glad that that happened."

Shafer said she is proud of what the students accomplished.

"It's great to see our students, or as I call them, student leaders and if this wasn't a teachable moment, I don't know what is," Shafer said. "This is a proud group of students. Most importantly, the lesson about what is happening in Ukraine, and

how fortunate we are here in the United States of America. I want to applaud Ms. Riviello, all the staff here and especially the students for taking that role and being compassionate and being kind to other children who are not as fortunate as we are here."

Seven PPS Teachers To Travel To India To Develop South Asian Curriculum

Seven Paterson Public School teachers have been selected to participate in a four-week project in India this summer to develop new methodologies to teach about South Asia. The teachers are: Randa Saleh of the Adult High School; Rashad Davis of PANTHER Academy, Karina Rosario of the New Roberto Clemente School, Lauren Pickett of Public School No. 7, Anyelis Diaz of the



International High School, Tracy Nelson of the Al Tambua Moody Academy, and Jessica Hinds of Public School No. 28. The project, entitled *Integrating South Asia and Diversity in New Jersey Classrooms: The Roots and Routes of Ethnic Communities*, is funded by the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad.

As part of their responsibilities of being a part of the project, the teachers will be required to develop lessons plan in collaboration with other team members and give a presentation at William Paterson University's *Teaching Asia* conference to be held in Fall 2022.

EHS Restorative Justice Center Named After Dr. Gerald E. Glisson

Ceremony held on what would have been Dr. Glisson's 48th birthday



From left, Sydney Glisson, Skylar Glisson, Michelle Glisson, Principal Nieves, Superintendent Shafer. Photo by Daniel Juan

Family and friends of the late Dr. Gerald E. Glisson gathered at Eastside High School on April 14th, what would have been his 48th birthday, to officially name the school's restorative justice center (a.k.a. the "Peace Center.") in his honor.

While he was Eastside's Principal of Operations, Glisson was instrumental in establishing the high school's restorative justice center as a place where students could take a break, receive counseling, or engage in restorative justice practices. Glisson died in May 2020 after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus.

"It's been nearly two years since our friend and colleague, Dr. Gerald Glisson, passed away," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "Anyone who loved him knows that you don't stop missing him, thinking about him and remembering him. As the superintendent, not a day goes by that I don't think about him. He is a part of us, and he always will be, and he will never, ever be forgotten."

"Dr. Gerald Glisson has blessed us with a rich legacy from his family, his friends and his experiences," Commissioner Vincent Arrington said. "I submit that Dr. Gerald's legacy will live forever. Dr. Glisson was a true visionary."

One of Dr. Glisson's most innovative uses of the restorative justice center was his calling two opposing football teams into a sharing circle after they had an altercation during a game the previous weekend.

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After graduating from Delaware State University in 1996, Glisson first began his career working in corrections in Delaware. He worked with many of those who were not afforded the opportunity to choose the right path themselves. Later on, he expressed to his family that he wanted to change his career path and work with the youth to give them a fighting chance before they are put behind bars, and opportunities to show them there's another way. He entered education, where he valued peace and put it at the center of everything that he did.

Among those present at the ceremony were Glisson's wife, Michelle, and daughters, Skylar and Sydney.

"I want to thank Superintendent Eileen Shafer and the Paterson Public School District for always keeping my father's legacy alive and honoring him," Sydney Glisson said. "I ask that we all take something away from today and go through our day just as my father did. Today, we recognize my dad."

Before the ribbon was cut to open the newly renamed Peace Center, Eastside Principal of Operations Edgard Nieves unveiled the official portrait of Glisson as principal. It will be displayed among the portraits of the previous Eastside principals at the school.



Commissioner Arrington Photo by Daniel Juan



Sydney Glisson Photo by Daniel Juan



Principal Nieves unveils Dr. Glisson's portrait.
Photo by Daniel Juan

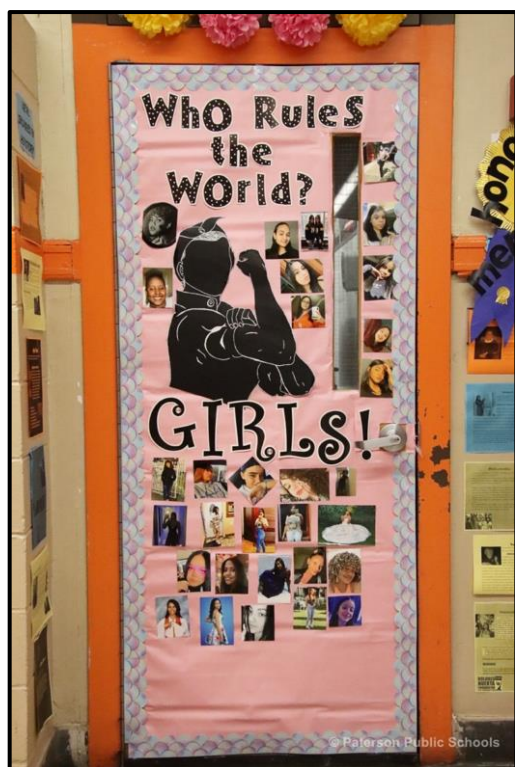


PPS April Highlights

Caped Crusader Crashes Classes! Somebody must have turned on the Bat Signal in Paterson. How else would Batman have known to come to Public School No. 28 when Paterson Public Schools and the NJ Department of Health were launching 11 sites where COVID-19 vaccinations were being made available to children five and older? Batman drove to the school in his Batmobile and talked to some students in the playground before participating in a press conference with Superintendent Shafer, Mayor Sayegh, and NJDOH officials. In his remarks, Batman – who always wears a mask – said he was vaccinated against COVID-19 and urged all Patersonians to get vaccinated too. *Photo by Daniel Juan*

EHS Opens Doors to Women's History Superintendent Shafer was welcomed to Eastside High School by Principal of Academics Andre McCollum on April 7th to tour classroom doors that had been decorated to commemorate women's history. Quotes by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, an homage to ballerina Misty Copeland, and a tribute to NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson were among the highlights in the hallways at Eastside.

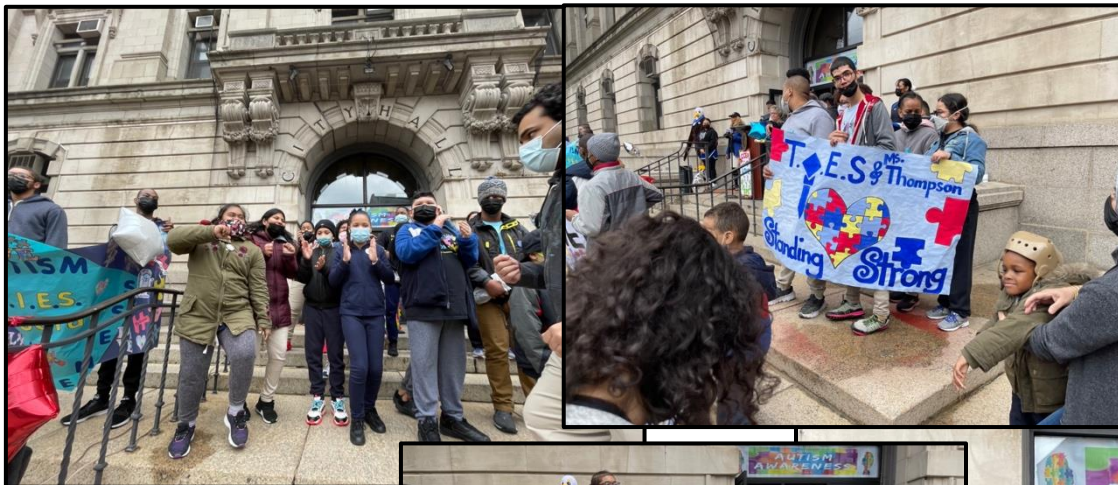
Photo by Daniel Juan



PPS April Highlights



Is There A Pathway For This Job? Superintendent Shafer spoke to students at Public School No. 2's annual career day about what it's like to be a superintendent of schools. *Photos by Daniel Juan*



Autism Awareness Flag Raising Paterson Public Schools was well-represented at the Autism Awareness flag raising at City Hall on April 1st. *Photos by Paul Brubaker*

PPS April Highlights

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Renaissance One School of Humanities maintains a partnership with the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild, which conducts workshops with students in Grades 3-5. On Friday, March 25th, performing artists from the Met held a concert for students. – Photo submitted by School 1



Autism Awareness In The Air! Students, teachers, and administrators at the Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology held their annual Autism Walk and raised \$1,000 for Nassan's Place, a nonprofit organization that serves children and families affected by autism. *Photo by Daniel Juan*

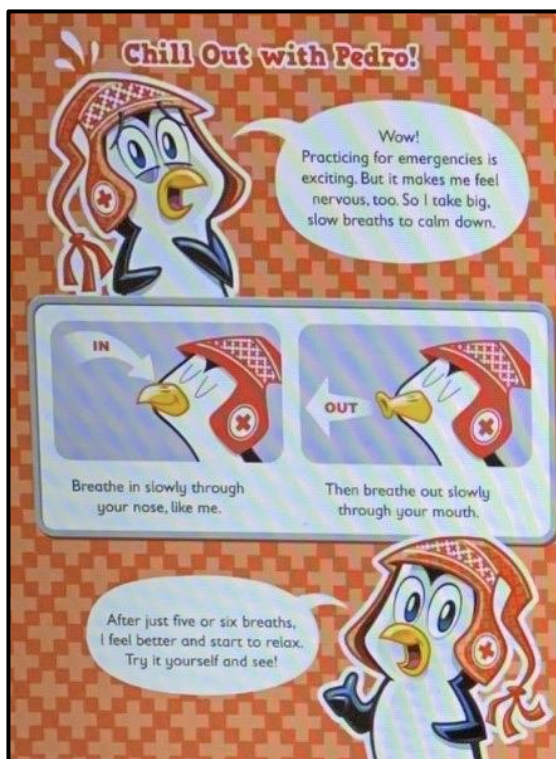
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District Partners With American Red Cross On Emergency Preparedness



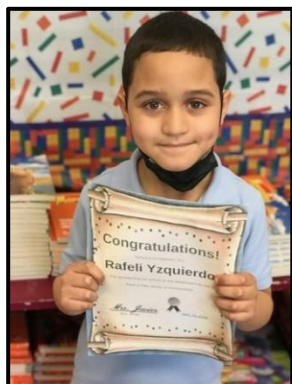
The district's Division of Academic Services partnered with the American Red Cross of Northern New Jersey to introduce their Prepare NJ initiative. The goal of Prepare NJ is to help contribute to a more resilient community in the face of a future disaster or emergency event. Volunteers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encouraged and improved preparedness with students in grades K through 4 from the Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology, the Senator Frank Lautenberg School, and Public Schools No. 12, 15, and 20 by delivering virtual presentations.

The *Prepare with Pedro Home Fire Module (Grades K-2)* reminded students that a smoke alarm makes a very loud "BEEP" noise to alert people to smoke in the room and that they should get out of the building as quickly as possible. Students also learned that it is important for grownups to test smoke alarms once a month and for families to practice fire drills twice a year to help them prepare for fire emergencies. Each student received a glossy printed Pedro Storybook to share with their families.

The *Pillowcase Project (Grades 3-4)* focused on general home fire safety and additional local hazards such as hurricanes and flooding. Often families evacuate with little time to pack their belongings. Having an emergency kit is critical during a disaster. It helps children mentally and physically prepare for natural disasters. Students received a pillowcase to decorate as an emergency kit bag and learned how to stay safe in a wide variety of emergency situations.

Initially the plan was to have the presentations in September. However, Hurricane Ida caused significant flood and tornado damage in the state, and the Red Cross and FEMA were actively serving many families' needs during that time.

School 10 Third-Grader Is NJ's Top Reading Student



On April 11, Rafeli Yzquierdo, a third-grader at Public School No. 10, was the daily top scorer out of all the students in New Jersey using the Achieve3000 program. His teacher, Juana Javier, said the young reader made School 10 and Paterson Public School District very proud.

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 28:** Report Card Parent Conferences
Grades 9 - 12
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- May 2:** Eid Al Fitr – District Closed
- May 4:** Special Board of Education Meeting – Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 Budget
6:00 p.m.
- May 5:** Report Card Parent Conferences
Grades pre-K - 8
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- May 11:** Board of Education Workshop Meeting*
6:00 p.m.
- May 13:** Staff in-service, 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students
- May 18:** Board of Education Regular Meeting*
6:00 p.m.
- May 27:** PEA in-service, 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students and staff
- May 30:** Memorial Day – District Closed

*All Board of Education meetings are live-streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents. Those who want to give public comment should register in advance by emailing public@paterson.k12.nj.us by 5:00 p.m. on May 4th, May 11th, and May 18th. Participants are asked to provide their name, address, and the phone number from which they will be calling.

The Paterson Post 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.