

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

January 2022

“There Are No Words”

Friends, educators hold remembrance for HARP Academy senior



Robert Cuadra Photo courtesy of Principal Kelli A. White

Dozens of HARP Academy’s Class of 2022 gathered with educators in the school’s library on Tuesday and held a flameless candlelight vigil to remember Robert Cuadra, the college-bound senior who was killed on Jan. 19 reportedly by a stray bullet as he helped his grandmother with groceries.

The vigil celebrated the life of a young man remembered for always putting others ahead of himself.

“There are no words when someone is taken so abruptly, so tragically, so senselessly,” said HARP Academy Principal Kelli A. White. “He constantly did for others. The first one to volunteer. The last one to leave.”

Only days before he was killed, Robert found out that he would attend Montclair State University on scholarship. His acceptance letter, dated January 5, was displayed next to photos of him on the library’s main desk.

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer, who was accompanied by Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren, said she did not know Cuadra. She said she had spoken with his family members and learned of his legacy.

“He was a true example for all of us, including myself,” Shafer said. “Someone who would give from his heart – helping his grandmother, his mother and his aunt.”

For more details about HARP Academy’s celebration of Robert Cuadra’s life, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Principal Kelli A. White
Photo by Daniel Juan



Superintendent Shafer speaks to HARP Academy students. Photo by Daniel Juan

Taub-Doby League Awarded \$2,500 From SNY Play Ball Program

Uniforms, equipment among items to be acquired with funds

Paterson Public Schools officials welcomed representatives from the SportsNet New York (SNY) television network and the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain last week who awarded a \$2,500 SNY Play Ball grant to the Taub-Doby Basketball and Cheerleading League. The Taub-Doby Basketball League is a joint venture of the district and the City of Paterson run by Director of Recreation Benjie Wimberly.

The grant, which was presented during half time of the league's game between Public School No. 24 and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex on Tuesday, will be used to purchase uniforms, equipment, portable scoreboard and other items.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a video of the grant award presentation.

"One of the cornerstones of the Paterson Public Schools District is the value we place on partnerships," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer, who was the coordinator of the league in 2001. "This is all about our boys and girls who play basketball and participate in cheerleading, and I want to thank Recreation Director Wimberly for his efforts in obtaining this grant and all of the people at SNY and Chick-fil-A for making this grant available."

"This is a great league," said Chris Chenes, Multiplatform Marketing Manager for SNY. "When Benjie applied, we knew right away that this was such a great candidate for the \$2,500 grant award, between the history of the league and how much the league means to the city, the school system, and the kids."



The halftime presentation of the \$2,500 grant award to the Taub-Doby League Photo by Daniel Juan



Photos by Daniel Juan



The Chick-fil-A cow made a special appearance during the presentation, stayed through the game, and posed for photographs with students-athletes, parents, and even a few district officials.

SNY officials said that the Taub-Doby Basketball League was selected as the recipient of the \$2,500 grant award because it serves nearly 1,000 players (400 between the ages of 6 and 14) per year in one of New Jersey's largest communities.

Paterson Music Project Expands To Add 70 Students

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Students perform in a Paterson Music Project recital before the holiday break. *Photo courtesy of the Paterson Music Project.*

The district's partnership with the Paterson Music Project (PMP) continues to flourish as more elementary and middle school students will be able to participate in the music education program thanks to additional federal funding. The music education program, which is held at Public School No. 16, will now be able to accommodate up to 70 new students when it re-launches on January 31st.

"As the district has faced the challenges of the deep cuts to funding for our art and music programs, Paterson Music Project has been a valuable partner in making music education available to elementary and middle school students in our schools," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "I congratulate everyone at Paterson Music Project on expanding their program, which will enable them to teach more students and help our students develop as better scholars in the future."

"We are thrilled to expand our program so that more students in Paterson can learn to play an instrument after school and on weekends," said Director and Co-Founder of Paterson Music Project Elizabeth Moulthrop. "Our mission is to provide affordable and accessible extracurricular music programming. We know that music is a powerful and important tool in youth development and can instill life skills and create lasting relationships for our students.

More than ever, students need community, social interaction, and joy right now. PMP's partnership with the Paterson Public Schools is a national model for other El Sistema-inspired programs as to how we can increase our impact and reach through public-private partnerships."

The Paterson Music Project (PMP) is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that empowers children to achieve their full potential through the joyful pursuit of musical excellence.

Inspired by the global [El Sistema](#) movement, PMP uses music education as a vehicle for social change in its home city of Paterson. Currently, 158 students participate in PMP at School 16, and 110 of those students attend district schools. PMP serves almost 400 students citywide across multiple sites.



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JAZZ HOUSE KiDS Takes Flight At Lautenberg School

Music scholars program welcomes more than 50 students, distributes instruments

It was a very special moment when Rasul Williams, a fifth-grader at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School, held his brand new slide trombone for the first time.

"I never had a musical instrument all to myself before," the young musician-to be said.

This kind of musical discovery was made by more than 50 students in grades five through eight enrolled in the Jazz House Music Scholars Program, which launched last week at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School. The group of students received clarinets, flutes, trombones, trumpets, and alto saxophones with the help of a \$10,000 donation from Jazz House Kids' Give An Instrument – Build A Musician program.

"We are thrilled that the Jazz House Music Scholars Program is launching today at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "Today is the culmination of the efforts of many people who worked hard and collaborated since last summer to make this happen for our students at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing what our new student musicians accomplish in the coming months, and I am grateful to everyone who helped launch this program."

Among the administrators Shafer thanked for their efforts were Cheryl Coy, Jalyn Lyde, DeWitt Evering and Melanie Brown, as well as the Senator Frank Lautenberg School Music Teacher Stephanie Assal. She also thanked the district's partners at Jazz House Kids including Melissa Walker, the organization's founder and president.

"This is an exciting day for all of us," said Walker. "We're very proud to partner with the Paterson School District to kickstart the jazz band program at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School," said Walker. "We know that music is an inspiring teaching tool that can boost achievement, develop life-long friendships and foster creativity in the lives of young people."

The program launch followed a special "Instrument Day" hosted by Jazz House Kids at the Senator Frank Lautenberg School on December 7th in which a variety of professional musicians demonstrated the instruments for the students. That was followed by an All Star Bank performance featuring seven-time GRAMMY Award-winning jazz bassist Christian McBride and Nat Adderley, Jr., a multi-GRAMMY Award-winning pianist and arranger best known for his work with Luther Vandross



Instructor James Gibbs III celebrates a student who gets a sound from his trumpet for the first time. Photo by Daniel Juan



Photo by Daniel Juan



District, WPU Win Professional Development Award

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Long-standing partnership recognized by national organization



Asst. Superintendent
Cicely Warren *File photo*



The long-standing professional development partnership between Paterson Public Schools and William Paterson University (WP) has been recognized by the National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS). Both the district and the university are recipients of NAPDS' Exemplary Professional Development School Award, which will be bestowed at the organization's upcoming national conference in February.

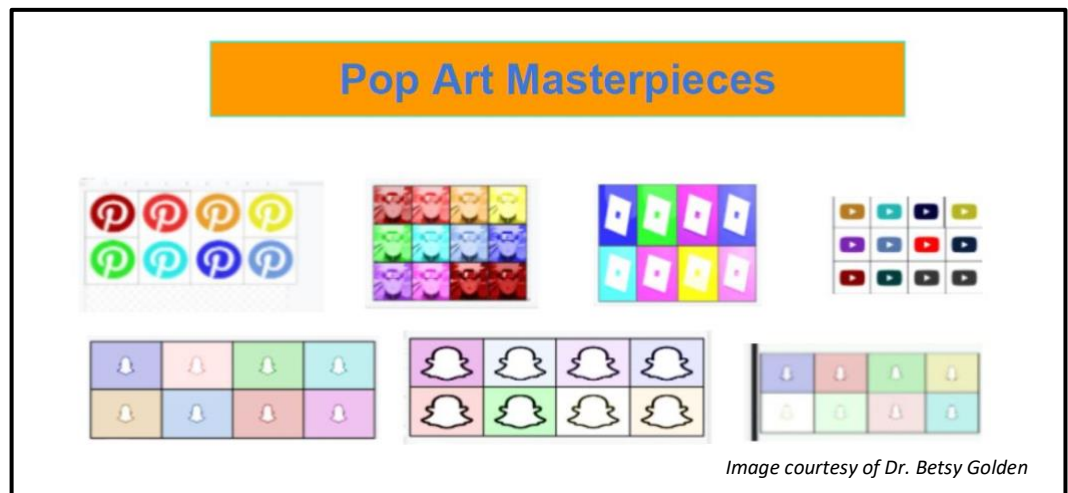
"This is a great honor that we appreciate," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "For decades, Paterson Public Schools has taken great pride in its educators and sought to develop the talents of our dedicated professions. William Paterson University's College of Education has been an outstanding partner in this endeavor, and I am so glad that this partnership is getting this recognition."

Superintendent Shafer thanked Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren for her work as the chief liaison between the district and the university. She also thanked College of Education Dean Amy Ginsberg and Director of Professional Development Nancy Norris-Bauer.

Paterson Public Schools is the district with the most participating schools in the WP Professional Development School Network. Each of the district's 14 schools has at least one Professor in Residence (PIR).

Pop Artists Emerge at School 12

Warhol painted soup cans. Haring made colorful stick figures dance. And now, sixth-graders at Public School No. 12 have entered the world of pop art thanks to their art teacher, Juderose Glore. She had each student identify a popular social media and game image that appealed to them. Then, she taught them how to create pop art with their image choices using Google Drawings. The image showcases some of the students' masterpieces.



District Partners With TD Bank To Promote Financial Literacy 6

Paterson Public Schools has entered a partnership with TD Bank to promote financial literacy through a series of online classes held for students in kindergarten through the third grade throughout the district. Another workshop series has also been planned for parents.

“This partnership is based on the idea that financial literacy is the first step a person takes toward their own prosperity,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “We’re proud to be partnering with TD Bank to develop a fundamental understanding of personal finance among our K to 3 students, and to provide parents in the district with workshops to help enhance their own financial acumen. I want to thank Special Projects Supervisor Eliza Rodriguez and Family and Community Engagement Projects Coordinator Evelyn Pena for their work in making these learning opportunities available to our students and parents, as well as everyone at TD Bank who helped make these sessions possible.”



An online class entitled *Intro to Savings and Spending* is being held for kindergarten students and first-graders, while an online class about managing a checking account is being taught to students in the second and third grades. The district’s Family and Community Engagement Department has scheduled four workshops on financial literacy for adults which will take place at the dates and times below. All workshops begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held online at www.facebook.com/PPSParents.

February 7 – Banking Basics (accounts, checkbook, budget)
March 7 – Building Good Credit
April 4 – Income Taxes
May 2 – First Time Homebuyer

Speaker Motivates School 13 Girls To Become Leaders



Motivational speaker Yvonne Harvey Williams, a Paterson native, recently visited Public School No. 13 to speak to female students about overcoming the hardships that can come with growing up in Paterson. Speaking from her own personal experiences, Williams connected with the students as she advised them to journal their emotions until they feel comfortable talking about them. She encouraged the students to avoid succumbing to peer pressure, make healthy decisions, and become positive leaders. The students participated in the event by asking Williams about her experiences as well as some of the hardships they face. The event was part of School 13’s series for the girls of the school.

Photo courtesy of Mona Atshan, Public School No. 13

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 1:** Special Board of Education Meeting*
5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5:** Make-up day for New Roberto Clemente School (NRC), The Newcomers Program at NRC, the Dame Avenue School, and the Edward W. Kilpatrick School.
- Feb. 9:** Board of Education Workshop Meeting*
6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 10:** Report Card Parent Conferences
pre-K to 8, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11:** Staff in-service, 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students
- Feb. 14:** Report Card Parent Conferences
School 7, Joseph A. Taub and New Roberto Clemente, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 15:** Report Card Parent Conferences,
Grades 9 to 12, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16:** Board of Education Regular Meeting*
6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21-25:** Winter Break – 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 4:30 p.m. on February 1st and 5:00 p.m. on February 9th and February 16th. Participants are asked to provide their name, address, and the phone number from which they will be calling.

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