

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

April 2021

PILLAR OF PATERSON

Officials, family, and friends open the Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy for Social Change



Alonzo “Tambua” Moody speaks. Photos by Daniel Juan



For years, Alonzo “Tambua” Moody worked with teens who struggled and needed help to find their way. Now, the district’s program dedicated to helping struggling teens bears his name.

A huge gathering of dignitaries, family members and friends of the longtime youth advocate officially opened the Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy for Social Change at 350 Market St. Moody’s son, Zaititi Moody, is the principal of the program and served as the emcee of the ceremony. Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer, N.J. Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, N.J. Senator Nellie Pou, Mayor Andre Sayegh, City Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mimms, and Passaic Mayor Hector Lora were among the public officials who paid tribute to Moody.

His wife, Kimaada, spoke of his long history of fighting for social justice, and his son, Kwesi, travelled from Boston, where he is a school principal, to attend the ceremony.

A number of Moody’s former students also came to the podium to honor the man they lovingly called, “Chief,” and spoke of the impact he had on their lives.

Paterson’s Poet Laureate Talena Lachelle Queen delivered an original poem dedicated to Moody. Every one of Queen’s stanzas ended with a refrain that succinctly summed up Moody’s legacy in the City of

Paterson.

“He did not care about his community,” she said. “He cared about his community deeply.”

JFK-SET Student Accepted At Yale University

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Iffat Anika, a senior in the School of Education and Training (SET) at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex, has been accepted at Yale University. Anika will begin studying at the Ivy League university in the fall.

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer extended congratulations to Anika. "Iffat worked hard to achieve this great opportunity, and she had the support of her parents who have worked incredibly hard to provide for her and her brother and sister. I congratulate them and I want to thank Iffat's teachers and administrators who worked to draw out the best of her abilities. We all look forward to Iffat's success at Yale."

Currently, Anika is considering a major in evolutionary biology. "I'm really interested people and life and its complexities," said Anika, adding that she is particularly interested in a career in genetics. "I would love to work in research, but whatever I do I would like to positively impact the world in some way."

Anika is the captain of her high school's robotics team and has been president of the Full Service Community Schools Student Ambassador Program at her high school. She also continues to be involved in community service endeavors through the Paterson Youth Council and the New Jersey Help Center.

Anika's father, Abdus Miah, first came to the United States from Bangladesh in the 1980s, she said. About 10 years later, he married Fatema Begum and they came to Paterson with their son. Anika was born in the United States. In addition to her older brother, she has a younger sister who currently attends the Don Bosco Technology Academy.

When asked if there was anything about her upbringing that helped her achieve academic success, Anika said, "I think my parents made it their mission to give me a comfortable life despite financial difficulties." Anika's mother is a homemaker while her father, who earned a degree in education before coming to the United States, works at a Dunkin' Donuts location in Wayne. "My dad works all day every single day," she said. "I almost never see him relax."

Anika is looking forward to beginning her studies at Yale in the fall. She said she loves the beautiful campus, incredible libraries, and said that the university was distinct from other colleges in that there is no "toxic competitive environment among the students."

Anika was willing to share some advice to Paterson Public Schools students who want to follow in her footsteps.

"Work hard and pursue things that you actually want to pursue in high school," she said. "And put effort into your application."



Iffat Anika

PPS Forms Alliance With Learning Ally ³

It was only a few months ago when Paterson Public Schools was still working to close the digital divide. Now, with an internet-ready device in every one of its students' hands, district officials are working for students to get the most out of those devices through a partnership with Learning Ally. The Princeton-based nonprofit organization provides more than 82,000 titles, including textbooks, to students and teachers as interactive audiobooks to encourage students to read and aid struggling readers. The reading levels of the titles range from kindergarten through the 12th grade.



"This is a tremendous resource for our students and teachers," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "Whether a class is being held in-person or virtually, the tools within the Learning Ally application empower struggling readers to improve their reading skills and encourage capable readers to read more."

Shafer thanked Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Coy for their efforts in making the Learning

Ally resources available to all district students, including special education students and struggling readers.

Most recently a winner of the Tech and Learning Excellence Award for Remote and Blended Learning for Secondary Education, Learning Ally Audiobook Solution is an award-winning, multi-sensory reading support geared for struggling readers from K through the 12th grade. With a rich library of more than 82,000 human-read audiobooks, it provides equitable access to all the system's books, including curriculum-aligned textbooks, literature and popular fiction. It enables deep comprehension, allowing students to keep pace with their classes and read to their capability. With a suite of educator tools for real-time progress monitoring and reporting, this program helps educators implement personalized instruction and develop engaged learners who can reach their full potential.

The district's teachers participated in an online professional development session in March. During that session, the teachers saw a demonstration of the application using selections from Kwame Alexander's poetic novel-in-verse *Rebound*, which was written for middle school-aged readers. The text was read by an expressive voiceover, which can be controlled by a student for its volume, speed, or turned off entirely when a student prefers to read silently.

"We are going to provide your students with equitable access to all of the books that they need to and want to read," said Learning Ally Director of Learning Services Dawn Ulley, who led the professional development session. Ulley explained how the application could be used by teachers of science, social studies, math, and health for its textbooks and topical books for project-based learning. Music and art teachers will be able to use the application's biographies on artists as well as books on specific genres and time periods in music history.

There are also books to enhance classes in world languages and for English Language Arts teachers, there are plenty of titles to encourage students to read independently. In the first week following the professional development session, 706 Paterson Public Schools students read more than 47,000 pages, and more than 22,000 books were added to student devices for listening and reading.

Assistant Superintendent Coy said that students had access to Learning Ally's books during Spring Break. "Learning Ally will also partner with us for another kick-off for summer reading," said Coy.

IB Principal Earns Doctorate From Northeastern University

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Catherine Forfia-Dion, Ed.D.

Is there a doctor in the house?

There is if the house is the International Baccalaureate Program at International High School.

Catherine Forfia-Dion, the International Baccalaureate Program's principal, was awarded her doctorate in education from Northeastern University on March 18.

Forfia-Dion's thesis, entitled "Brown Girl Magic," was a study of the experiences of underrepresented girls in urban high schools.

"It was a labor of love," said Forfia-Dion.

One of the critiquing readers of her thesis was Stephanie James Harris, Ph. D., the executive director of the New Jersey Amistad Commission.

Forfia-Dion has been working in the district for nearly 12 years.

Third Grade Lessons in Economics, Finance, and Global Business



Christina Somma, a third grade social studies teacher at Public School No. 29 recently teamed up with William Paterson University (WPU) Professor in Residence Dr. Betsy Golden to arrange a virtual visit from WPU Professor of Economics Dr. Tricia Snyder. Snyder used students' interests and experiences to guide them through some of the field's fundamental concepts. She explained that an ice cream truck in the neighborhood may be in high demand and have many customers on a very warm day but would be in low demand on a cold winter day. She shared the fun fact that dollar bills are made of both paper and denim, the fabric that makes up blue jeans, so they do not dissolve in the laundry or the rain. An expert on the history of money, Snyder told the students that before the development of coins and paper, humans used shells and other found objects as currency. Students had many questions and Snyder plans to return to the class later this year.

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2021 IPAC Black History Art & Essay Awards



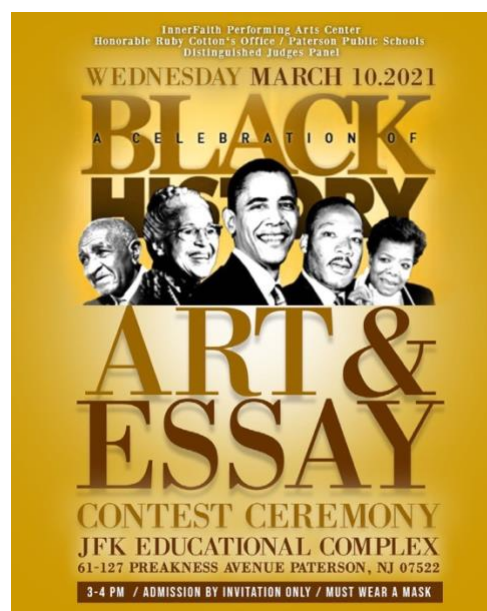
The Innerfaith Performing Arts Center (IPAC) held its 17th annual Art and Essay Awards at a live event at the John F. Kennedy Education Complex auditorium. A total of 18 district students were honored for their original works of art and essays.

Among the dignitaries at the special, socially-distanced ceremony were Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer, Paterson First Lady Farhanna Balgahoom Sayegh, and Paterson City Councilwoman Ruby Cotton.

IPAC Executive Director Rahsona Smith-Elder, daughter of the organization's late co-founder Lynda "Sarge" Smith, served as the emcee for the event.

IPAC offers comprehensive arts education curriculum to students ages four and up in her hometown, Paterson, New Jersey.

Since 1998, the arts center has provided professional artistic training in the areas of music, theater, voice, art, media, dance and social arts. Close to two decades, in Passaic County and under Smith-Elder's guidance, the center has professionally trained over 1000 youths through afterschool programs, summer camps, retreats and performing arts genre.





Art Winners - High School

1st Place - Emily Quintero, RPHS
Teacher: Amy Rothenberg

2nd Place - Sebastian Cano, GMA
Teacher: Christopher Fabor

3rd Place (tie) - Carlos Lopez, GMA
Teacher: Christopher Fabor

3rd Place (tie) - Evelyn Gonzalez, RPHS
Teacher: Cortez

Art Winners - Grades 6-8

1st Place - Ashlee Gomez, MLK
Teacher: Dwayne Beckford

2nd Place - Myles Berry, SFLS
Teacher: Jaymie Stein

3rd Place - Tytiana Robinson, SFLS
Teacher: Jaymie Stein

Art Winners - Grades pre-K-5

1st Place - Jiselda Beltre, SFLS
Teacher: Jaymie Stein

2nd Place - Amy Polanco, PS No. 20
Teacher: Debra Storch

3rd Place - Amira Lyn, PS No. 20
Teacher: Debra Storch

Art – Honorable Mentions

Yunior Chavez, GMA
Teacher: Christopher Fabor

Sophia Crisobal, PS No. 13
Teacher: Amanda Scardigno

Essay Winners – Grades 4-8

1st Place - Annie Gomez, Public School No. 28

2nd Place (Tie) - Maria Brito, Public School No. 28

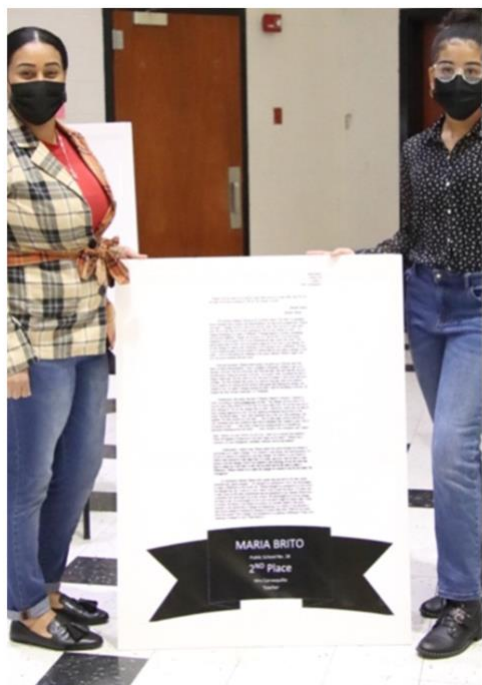
2nd Place (Tie) - Jani Belton, Public School No. 28

3rd Place (Tie) - Marilyn Navarro, Public School No. 13

3rd Place (Tie) - Samantha Suffy, NJ Youth Council



Photos by Daniel Juan



Teaching And Learning In Virtual Classes

Hurricanes, Hailstones, and Rain! Oh My!

When Public School 29 science teacher Christine Cifelli wanted to give her third graders a deeper understanding of weather, she reached out to William Paterson University Professor in Residence Dr. Betsy Golden, who was able to arrange for a forensic meteorologist to pay a virtual visit to the class.



Howard Altschule

Howard Altschule, a former weather reporter for Albany, N.Y. NBC affiliate WNYT, explained the Doppler Radar System, displayed aerial views of a hurricane's eye as well as images of hailstones the size of softballs, and shared stories of storm chasing. Altschule also spoke about the work he currently does with his forensic meteorology team, which involves investigating weather conditions and forecasts as well as weather-related incidents and accidents occurring around the country.

Paleontologist Leads Eighth-Graders Through Underwater Forest

Public School No. 12's eighth graders in Michelle Albritton's science class recently had the opportunity to learn about an underwater forest from someone who has had first-hand experience exploring the area (and even coming face to face with sharks!).

Martin Becker, a William Paterson University (WPU) professor of paleontology explained how an ancient cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico had once existed on dry land. The melting of glaciers had caused the sea waters to rise and cover it. After thousands of years, a hurricane moved the sediment covering the forest and unearthed it.

Becker also responded to a wide range of questions that the students had prepared for him ahead of time after watching [a video on the underwater forest](#) as preparation for the class. He also showed students a framed collection of sharks' teeth collected on land, which was indicative of the fact that the land was once under an ocean.

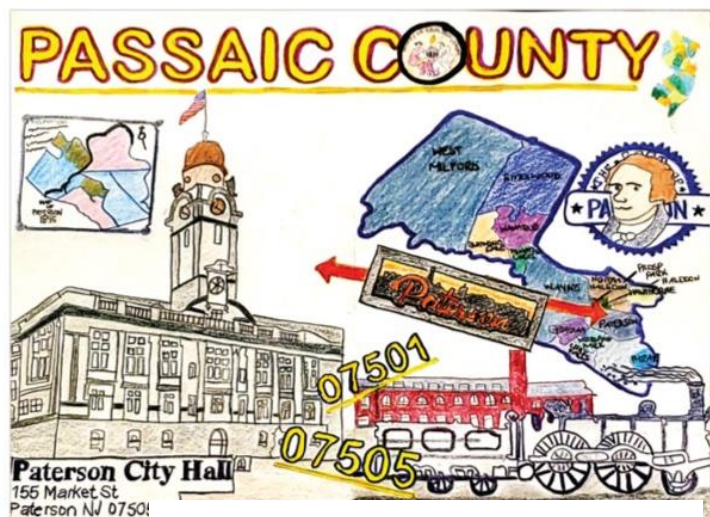
Becker reminded students that scientific results must always be testable, predictable, and reproducible. In his closing comments, Becker gave tips on finding fossils like always search for them in sedimentary rock. He noted that they can often be found in surprising places – like the WPU campus!



Martin Becker, Ph.D.

Seven PPS Students Win Honors In Passaic County's My County Poster Contest

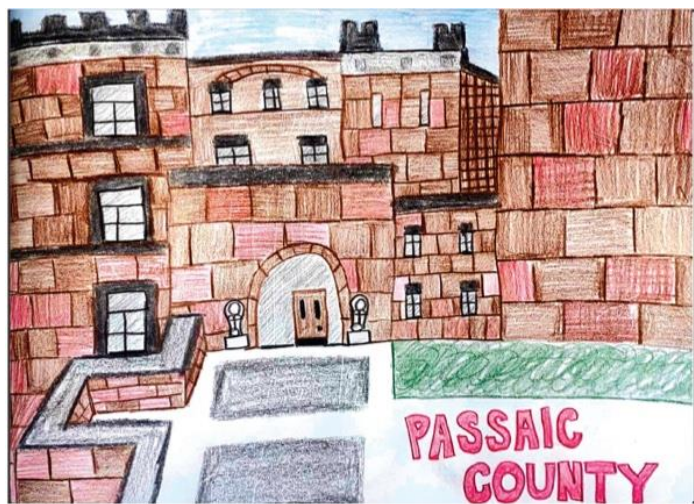
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Artwork by Noraiyah Carlo



Artwork by Mia Reyes



Artwork by Brandon Fallero

Seven Paterson Public Schools students have won honors in Passaic County's annual My County Poster Contest. Public School No. 3 had a fantastic showing with two students having artwork included in Passaic County's 2021 calendar.

Artwork by Noraiyah Carlo, a fourth-grader at Public School No. 3, is featured in the month of February on the calendar, while artwork by Brandon Fallero, also in the fourth grade, is featured in November. Mia Reyes of Public School No. 19 has a drawing featured on the calendar in July.

Twelve winners were chosen from more than 240 submissions. Public School No. 3 is the only school to have two students from the same school published on the calendar. Principal Jose Correa expressed his thanks to art teacher Johan Palacio for his guidance.

Students who received honorable mentions in the contest were Anderson Mendoza of Public School No. 3, Ian Chen at Public School No. 19, Aymee Abreu De La Cruz at the Roberto Clemente School, and Jaylin Campbell at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex.

Copies of the poster are on display at schools, libraries, and government buildings throughout Passaic County and are available to download [at the county's website](#).



Artwork by Anderson Mendoza

Teaching And Learning In Virtual Classes

Navigating The World Of Online Resources

Public School No. 29 Principal Dr. Jorge Ventura has a wealth of knowledge about online educational resources and programs. William Paterson University recently recruited him to share his expertise with educators attending a virtual afterschool professional development workshop. Ventura provided an overview of Screencastify, Submit, Flipgrid, EdPuzzle, Video Ant, Google Forms, Google Slides, Quizizz and Playpos.it, and he also invited attendees to note how they are using technology in their classrooms. The participants included teachers, administrators, professors in residence, and teacher candidates.



Technology Treasures for Teachers



In this world of virtual instruction, teachers are more eager than ever to find useful online resources. Recognizing this need, Public School No. 12 fourth grade ELA teacher (and William Paterson University adjunct professor) Anissa Conyers, middle school science teacher Michelle Albritton, and Professor in Residence Dr. Betsy Golden recently co-presented a WPU afterschool workshop entitled *Technology Treasures: Curating a Collection to Inspire Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Communication*.

Attendees learned about a rich range of applications and websites to enhance their teaching, including Screencastify, Submit, Flipgrid, Jamboard, Padlet, and Answer Garden.

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SOIT Guidance Counselor Honored By NJSCA As A 2021 Counselor Of The County



Hortencia Silfa

Hortencia Silfa, a guidance counselor at the School of Information Technology at the Eastside Educational Campus, has been honored by the New Jersey School Counseling Association (NJSCA) as a 2021 Counselor of the County.

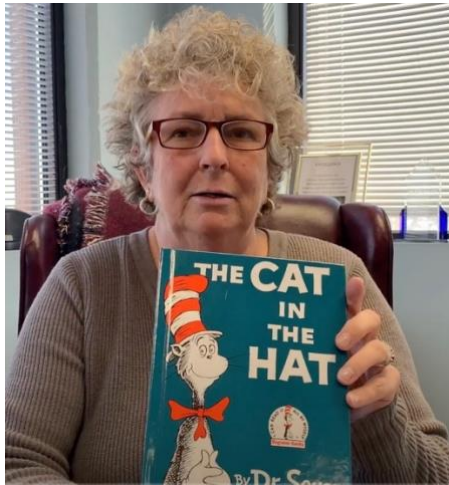
The NJSCA recognized distinguished guidance counselors in nearly all of New Jersey's 21 counties in a virtual ceremony in March. Silfa won the honor in Passaic County.

"She is hard-working, dedicated, and steadfast," said the district's School-Based Supervisor of Guidance Pamela Holloway. "Her unwavering attention and support to students and families are cherished. Ms. Silfa is conscientious, collaborative, and collegial. She continues to learn new techniques and sharpen her counseling skills with the changing times. She embodies the skills of a 21st-century professional school counselor."

Silfa has been working at the School of Information Technology for more than eight years.

The NJSCA recognizes professional school counselors who have made major contributions to the counseling profession with the annual Counselor of the County awards program. In addition to the recognition given to the award winners, positive public attention is focused on school counseling.

Read Across America Brings Dignitaries, Volunteers Before PPS Students



Superintendent Shafer

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer, NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh were among the dignitaries who participated in the annual "Read Across America" event in March.

The pandemic did not stop district schools from holding reading sessions with students in virtual settings to participate in the annual pro-literacy event. Many district staff members volunteered to read their favorite children's books over Zoom calls and Google Meets.

Superintendent Shafer read *The Cat In The Hat* for schools throughout the district. Mayor Sayegh read to students at the Dr. Hani Awadallah School. Attorney General Grewal and First Lady Murphy read to Thomas Topolski's first grade class at Public School No.13.

William Paterson University (WPU)'s Provost Joshua Powers visited kindergarten students, first-graders, and second-graders at Public School No. 29 and read aloud the book, *I Am Martin Luther King Jr.* School 29, a WPU Professional Development School, also welcomed several other university students and faculty members during the week as part of the university's "Real Men Read" program.

With Partnerships And Protections In Place, District Prepares To Reopen

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Paterson Public Schools has partnered with St. Joseph's Health and Hackensack Meridian Health to provide the COVID-19 vaccination to employees of the district. Meanwhile, the district is in the process of putting several layers of protection to prevent the spread of the virus in its buildings.

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer joined St. Joseph's Health officials, at a press conference she hosted in March at the Dr. Hani Awadallah School to announce the district's vaccination program.

Also at the press conference was Colleen Giarrusso, a fourth grade reading teacher.

"I really miss all of my students. I am looking forward to getting back in the classroom with them," Giarrusso said.

As of April 14, more than 1,600 staff members had received the vaccine. District staff members who want to be vaccinated should use their ppsstaff.org email accounts to access and complete the Google Form at



Colleen Giarrusso Photo by Daniel Juan

<https://forms.gle/WKmmNW7ziPYxN5rr5>. Staff members who provide all of the requested information will be contacted directly to arrange appointments.

Vaccines for staff are being administered at the Dr. Hani Awadallah School at 515 Marshall Street in Paterson, and at the Meadowlands COVID-19 Vaccine Megasite at 50 NJ-Route 120 in East Rutherford.

Prevention Measures

District officials are busy installing several layers of protection in district buildings including, thermal temperature scanners, [Active Pure ionic air purifiers](#), MERV-11 air filters, air scrubbers, and partitions for the desks of staff and students. Universal masking and social distancing will be required of everyone in district buildings.

All of these protections and protocols are demonstrated in a video produced by the Communications Department entitled, [A Day In The Life Of Paterson Public Schools Students](#).

Safety walks through the district's buildings are schedule for Wednesday, April 21 and Thursday, April 22 to make certain all protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and local public health authorities are being upheld.

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PPS Officials Join In Ushering In New Era At Hinchliffe Stadium

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Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer, Paterson Board of Education Vice President Manuel Martinez, Jr. and Paterson Board of Education Commissioner Oshin Castillo-Cruz were among the dignitaries who participated in the groundbreaking for the renovation of Hinchliffe Stadium on April 14.

The former Negro Leagues ballpark where Paterson's barrier-breaking Larry Doby had played will have a 75-home senior center, a restaurant, a pre-school, 815 parking spaces, and a huge event space to honor the Negro Leagues.

In her remarks, Shafer thanked all of the Board of Education Commissioners for the work they had done to make the commencement of the project happen.

"As our young people come to Hinchliffe Stadium, it is our hope that they learn the lessons of our nation's history of segregation and that they will understand that no one is inferior because of the color of their skin," Shafer said. "And no one can be limited by the prejudices of others if they hold on to their belief in themselves and all they can achieve."


Important Dates

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April 2:	Good Friday – District Closed
April 5-9:	Spring Break – District Closed
April 14:	Board of Education Workshop Meeting* 6:00 p.m.
April 15:	Third marking period ends
April 21:	Board of Education Regular Meeting* 6:00 p.m.
April 26:	Report Card Parent Conferences Public School No. 7, Don Bosco Technology Academy & New Roberto Clemente School 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
April 27:	Report Card Parent Conferences, Grades 9-12 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
April 29:	Report Card Parent Conferences, Prek-8 th grade 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*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 April 14th and by 5:00 p.m. on April 21st. 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.



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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PARENT UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH
Money Matters
Michelle Abel,
PNC Bank

THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND
Banking Basics
Perry Lighty,
Lakeland Bank

TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH
Creating Family Budgets
Anthony Bowrin,
Christos M. Costakos College
of Business, WPU

THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH
**Creating & Managing
Budgets On Google Excel**
Jose Correa,
Principal of School 3 &
FSCC Tech Coordinator

**JOIN US via
Facebook
PPSParents
6:00 P.M.**

For questions: epena@paterson.k12.nj.us



PARENT UNIVERSITY

April Calendar
Calendario de abril

Join Us Via Facebook
Únete a nosotros a través de Facebook
PPSParents at 6 P.M.
<https://www.facebook.com/PPSParents>

4/12/21: Knowing the IEP
(An overview of the Individualized Educational Plan, a legal document which details the personalized learning needs and goals for a child)

4/13/21: Conociendo el IEP
(Una descripción general del Plan Educativo Individualizado, un documento legal que detalla las necesidades y objetivos de aprendizaje personalizados para un niño/a)

4/19/21: Overview of the PRISE
(An overview of the Parental Rights in Special Education)

4/20/21: Revisar el PRISE
(Una descripción general de los derechos de los Padres en la Educación Especial)

4/26/21: Seguridad en Internet y Control Parental
(mejores prácticas sobre cómo los estudiantes pueden mantenerse seguros en Internet y lo que los padres puede hacer para monitorearlos)