

# Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

November 12, 2019

## PPS Graduate Becomes the District's First To Earn IB Diploma



Aamya Perez was first in her class when she graduated from International High School in June, and now she has scored another first. Perez has received notification that she has earned the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma in recognition of her exceptional work in completing its rigorous requirements while a student in the IB program at IHS. "The IB program at International is a challenging yet rewarding program that truly prepares you for the level of work one experiences on the college level," said Perez, who is now a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania. "The program has not only taught me to be open-minded to global issues but has allowed me to

develop my interests outside of the classroom. As a graduate of IB, I can honestly say that the program and its rigor allowed me to flourish and have an edge up in the college application process." To earn an IB diploma, a student in the IB program must take six exams in different subject areas during the junior and senior years of high school, and score a minimum of 24 total points. Each exam has a maximum score of 7 points. An IB diploma also requires a student to have completed an extended essay, the Theory of Knowledge course, as well as a Creativity, Action and Service project. One to three bonus points can be added for completion of the Theory of Knowledge course and the Creativity, Action and Service project. The extended essay and the exams are graded externally by the IB worldwide organization. "Aamya Perez is the epitome of a student who makes the most of the opportunities that are presented to her," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "She worked very hard to earn the IB diploma and she will go down in the history of our district as the first to do so. I want to congratulate her, as well as her parents, her teachers, her administrators and all who supported Amaya in high school."

## School 7 Celebrates 100

Public School No. 7 celebrated its 100th birthday in October. Principal Rebecca Cecala and her committee did an outstanding job in planning a ceremony to commemorate the school's rich history. Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer greeted the crowd of students and dignitaries. Social Studies Teacher Salvatore Alessio gave a presentation on what School 7 was like 100 years ago. Two former students (pictured at right) returned to the school for the occasion: Tara Cullen, who graduated in 1975, and Kathy Puluse Easton, who graduated in 1965. Two



former principals also returned: Nicholas Vancheri and Joanne Cardillo. The event culminated with the planting of an apple tree – which symbolized prosperity, fruitfulness and strength – and the burial of a time capsule.

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## **District's One-To-One Device Initiative Bolstered By Intel, Micro Center**



District officials welcomed representatives from Intel and Micro Center to Public School No. 14 this week where they announced Intel Corporation's donation of \$25,000 to purchase 40 Dell Chromebooks courtesy of Micro Center. Micro Center is a national electronics retailer that has a store on Route 20, which was announced as the winner of Intel's Score with Intel Core competition. The contest tests sales professionals' knowledge of Intel technology powering the products they sell and the benefits it delivers to customers.

More than 10,000 retail sales professionals competed in over 1,000 qualifying stores. Paterson's Micro Center won one of only 11 grand prizes in the United States. The store chose Paterson Public Schools to receive the donation of 40 Chromebooks, valued at about \$25,000. "As a former student of School 14, it makes me proud to see students at the school get the best technology to aid in their education," said Paterson Board of Education Commissioner Joel Ramirez. "I want to congratulate the sales team at the Paterson Micro Center on winning Intel's contest, and thank them for thinking of School 14 in choosing a school to support with the prize. I also want to thank the people at Intel Corporation for their commitment to supporting education."

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## **P-TECH Students Meet Their Mentors**

Students of the inaugural freshman class of P-TECH at PANTHER Academy met their mentors from the IBM Corporation this week. At a special event at the school, IBM professionals collaborated with students on their first project together: building the tallest freestanding tower they could with just a few sheets of paper and a limited amount of other materials. The P-TECH Program gives students the chance to earn an associate's degree in addition to a high school diploma. It also provides special opportunities to intern and interview for entry level positions at the IBM Corporation.





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## Halloween Party Thrown For Students With Special Needs



Children's safety is always a concern on Halloween, and it is an even greater concern for children who have special needs. That is why parents of special needs children, for the first time, joined together to throw a Halloween party for Paterson Public Schools' students who have special needs. The party was thrown by Strength 2 Stand Up, a Paterson advocacy group of parents of special needs children founded by Raquel Soto, a parent of two special needs children, one who attends Paterson Public Schools. "A lot of special needs children

cannot go out and Trick or Treat on Halloween," said Soto. "My vision was to have a safe place where special needs children could go with their parents to celebrate Halloween." Soto expressed her gratitude to Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer and Chief Special Education Officer Cheryl D. Coy for their help in making the party possible. Soto also thanked the parents and local businesses who donated food, decorations and other items for the party. All of the decorations were provided by Soto and three other parents: Hannah Tennin, Martha Asencios and Andrea Camilo. The food was donated by Checkers and the parents.

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## Eastside Students Learn Voting Matters

Voting Matters! That was the point of a special assembly that was held for seniors at the Eastside Educational Complex in anticipation of Election Day. The assembly featured N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, N.J. State Assemblywoman Shovanda Sumter, Passaic County Superintendent of Elections Shona Mack Pollock, Passaic County Deputy Elections Superintendent Ron Fava, and Paterson Public School Chief of Staff Pamela Powell. The assembly was organized by Theresa Logan, vice principal of the School of Government and Public Administration and advisor to the senior class. The assembly followed a Senior Class Voter Registration Drive where hundreds of EHS seniors became new voters and were eligible to vote in the November 5th elections.



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## Young Botanists at Work at School 29

It may be cold outside, but Nadine Reid's second-graders are making it feel like spring inside their classroom at Public School No. 29. Each student has had the opportunity to grow an individual brassica plant from seeds, and the class has watched with great enthusiasm as the green shoots have emerged from the soil. In a few weeks, the yellow blossoms are scheduled to appear – perhaps, just in time for the first autumn snowfall.

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## Choice Fair Held For Eighth-Graders

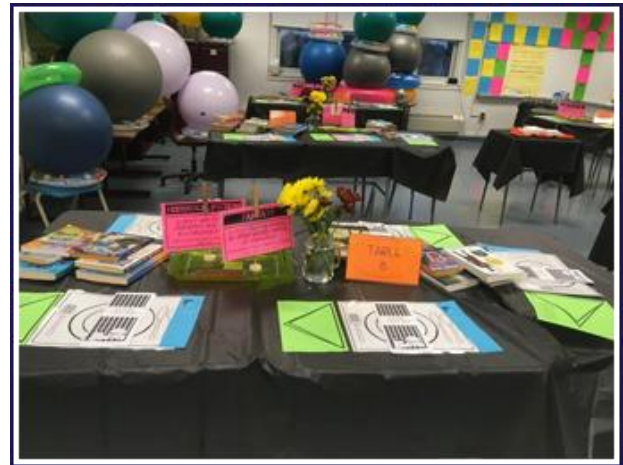


Eighth grade students anticipating their transition to high school and beyond attended the 2019 High School Choice Fair in late October. The students, most with parents and guardians in tow, were able to meet teachers and students from each of Paterson Public Schools' 12 college and career oriented high school programs. The John F. Kennedy Educational Complex gymnasium was set up with tabletop displays, practical demonstrations and a host of administrators, counselors, teachers and students, to help the eight-graders in make an informed decision for the fall.

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## School 24 Students Get A Taste For Reading

Decked out with black tablecloths, green napkins, and orange plates; the students in Karen Janes' eighth grade language arts class at Public School No. 24 experienced their first "Book Tasting." The classroom was transformed into a cafe-like restaurant complete with the "chef" wearing a chef's hat and apron, flowers on the tables, and place cards. Through the course of the 80-minute periods, the students sampled a number of books from a variety of genres to get a "taste" of books they potentially would like to independently read in the future. There were different kinds of books to tempt even the fussiest of palates, including mysteries, humor, fantasy, history, biographies, and autobiographies. Each student walked away with a menu of five to six novels to add to their reading lists.



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## School 29 Hosts Dutch Educators for Cross-Cultural Conversations



Public School No. 29 Principal Jorge Ventura and Technology Teacher Tororris Hill recently welcomed 22 Dutch educators to their school to share some of their exciting educational strategies. The visitors also had the opportunity to meet with many of the school's other teachers. Ventura and second grade teacher Carla Propersi later accompanied the educators and the William Paterson University (WPU) Professor in Residence Betsey Golden to WPU for lunch and a series of roundtable discussions focused on 21st century

learning practices. WPU College of Education Associate Dean Dorothy Feola participated in the Paterson visit and oversaw the activities at the college.



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## Fourth-Graders at School 28 Let Rocks Tell a Story



Fourth grade students from Public School No. 28 turned the Great Falls National Historical Park into their science classroom on Friday, October 25th. Using the story rocks tell, teachers Donna Genovese and Maureen Bruins planned and executed an interactive lesson on erosion, deposition, and weathering. The students embraced their roles as scientists as they interacted with their environment and explored the history of rocks right here in Paterson. They also played the game, “Rock, Rock, Rockity, Rock, Rock!” in which they were able to make real world connections that

would otherwise not be possible in the classroom. Through this placed-based approach, students were encouraged to use the Great Falls as a resource in their learning, turning their community into a classroom while promoting understanding of the world around them.

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## DHA Students Envision Themselves As Future Engineers

The integration of literacy and science became a natural process at the Dr. Hani Awadallah School on October 24th, as second grade students participated in an engineering project that focused on solving real world problems through creativity and innovation. The story, *Muncha, Muncha, Muncha*, provided a thematic framework for students by guiding their thinking as they empathized with the story’s main character.

Students asked questions, engaged in ideating, imagined, planned, and finally designed a solution for a real world problem. This project-based approach provided students with an opportunity to connect with literature while behaving like engineers, thinking critically, collaborating with others, giving and receiving feedback from peers. They practiced logical thinking and reasoning, all while envisioning (and referring to themselves) as the future engineers of tomorrow.



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## School 28 Students Learn About Red Ribbon Week



In honor of Red Ribbon Week, students at Public School No. 28/Paterson Academy for the Gifted & Talented (PAGT) had the honor of experiencing firsthand the way law enforcement officers are responsible for investigating crimes related to drug trafficking. Special Agent Eric Triana imparted his wealth of knowledge to students in the seventh and eighth grades, and gave a brief history of how Red Ribbon Week emerged and the importance of living a drug-free life.

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## YMLA Scholars' Posters Take A Stand Against Bullies

Young Men's Leadership Academy (YMLA) scholars are committed to learning healthy habits for repairing and restoring relationships with their peers. In keeping with their social emotional learning – and giving special attention to bullying during October, which is Bully Prevention Month at YMLA – students designed posters displayed throughout the building that raised awareness about the effects of bullying and how one should respond



when bullying is seen. The guidance counselors, in collaboration with the staff, are committed to developing the young men's social emotional learning competencies so that they are empowered to take control of their lives and be the responsible, happy young men that they aspire to be. The takeaway that the scholars hoped would resonate throughout each of the posters is that YMLA is no place for bullies.

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The Urban Leadership Academy (ULA)'s students, parents, and staff participated in the school's fourth annual Trunk or Treat event, making Halloween night magical for ULA students.

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Dale Avenue School hosted a Fall Festival on October 25th where they enjoyed pumpkin picking, trunk or treating, dancing, and other activities. This event was organized by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.





In recognition of Red Ribbon Week – an alcohol, tobacco, drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed every year in October – Eastside Educational Complex staff wore their favorite sport teams' apparel to “team up” against drug abuse.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Nov. 19: Report Card Distribution: All other Pre-K-8**

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### **Nov. 21: Report Card Distribution: Grades 9-12**

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### **Nov. 26: Report Card Distribution: Schools 7, Don Bosco, NRC**

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### **Nov. 26: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

### **Nov. 27: Early Dismissal**

1:00 Dismissal for Students/1:20 Staff

### **Nov. 28 & 29: Thanksgiving Recess**

District Closed

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Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).  
We welcome your submissions on school and district related events. [Click here](#) to submit stories and photos.