

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

November 25, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving!
This is a special Thanksgiving Edition of the
Paterson Post



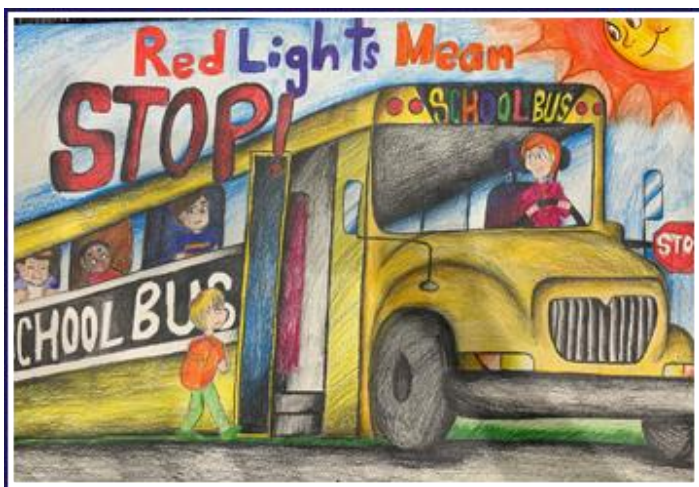
Public School No. 8 Students Named State Finalists in Samsung STEM Contest



A team of students from Public School No. 8 has been selected as state finalists in Samsung's "Solve for Tomorrow" contest, a \$3 million national competition that encourages students in grades 6 to 12 to creatively use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills to solve a community challenge. There were more than 2,000 applications nationwide for this competition. Public School No. 8's team is led by three students: Karen Vargas, Ashely Martinez, and Lorena Cruz. Their creative proposal, inspired by the solar panels that generate energy from their school's roof, to use the photosynthesis process in plants to

conserve and recycle water, was submitted with the help of teachers Martha Cruz, Ivette Soto and Anibal Cintron. Public School No. 8 Principal Sham Bacchus noted that all three student leaders had immigrated to Paterson just a few years ago. They are all part of the bilingual magnet program, which is designed to ease the academic transition for students who are English language learners.

S.T.A.R.S. Academy Student Wins National Bus Safety Poster Contest



Bryan Torres Tavares, a junior at S.T.A.R.S. (Students Transitioning and Achieving Real Success) Academy, has won first place honors and a \$500 prize in a transportation poster contest held by the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT). Officials on the state and national level believe this is the first time a student from New Jersey has been named the overall winner of the contest. NAPT holds the poster contest annually as part of its observance of National School Bus Safety Week, which is held during the third week of October. NAPT's National School Bus Safety Week poster contest has a different theme every year. The 2019 poster contest theme was, "Red Lights Mean STOP!"

Paterson Students Take Stage with the N.J. Symphony Orchestra



The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performed a concert on November 14th for district students at the John F. Kennedy High School Educational Complex. The hour-long concert was held for students in grades three to eight with the help of the Paterson Music Project. District students who are members of the Paterson Music Project took the stage with the orchestra and performed together in the concert's last selection. There was no cost to the district for the concert. The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is a world-class orchestra with local roots, creative

programming in concerts throughout the state, and service to the community through education.

Harvest Festival Celebrates Autumn at School 21

What do you do when your preschoolers cannot go to the pumpkin patch? You bring the pumpkin patch to the students! On October 30th, Public School No. 21 Principal Joanne Riviello and Parent Teacher Organization President Sonji McDaniel organized a harvest festival for the pre-K students. With the scene set with haystacks, scarecrows, ears of corn and pumpkins, one would believe that they were at an actual pumpkin patch. Each student was able to take an individual harvest picture and later pick a pumpkin. The event ended with students gathering with their teachers for a class picture.



Family Painting Night at School 15



Public School No. 15, a Full Service Community School, hosted a family painting night on November 13th. Students and parents had a chance to use their imaginations and creativity while enjoying each other's company and conversations. Bagels, doughnuts, muffins, coffee and hot cocoa were served.

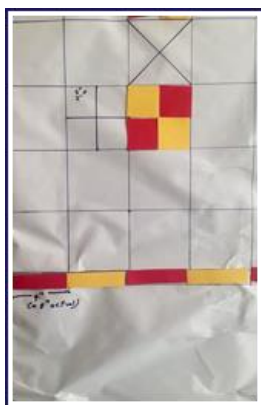
Sticks and Stones and Lesson Plans

Public School No. 12 teacher Desarie McMillan and Public School No. 29 teachers Nadia Alkaita and Eric Chenet recently joined Professor in Residence Dr. Betsey Golden at a William Paterson University afternoon workshop. The workshop highlighted ways to teach language arts, math, science and social studies using natural and low-cost materials. The presentation included an opportunity for the teachers to try a number of lesson activities incorporating leaves, acorns, sticks, stones, cardboard tubes, and clothespins. Attendees were also introduced to a number of picture books that inspire the use these materials, including *If You Find A*



Rock, Log Hotel, and Leaves! Leaves! Leaves! The presenters urged teachers to let their students' interests be their guides as they create their unit studies.

School 21, WPU, and Dodge Foundation Team up For Mural Project



Public School No. 21 is the latest Paterson Public School to be added to the group of [Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#) Arts Integration Grant schools in Paterson. Recently, Principal Joanne Riviello met with Dr. Heejung An, William Paterson University (WPU) Art Professor Triada Samaras, and WPU Professor in Residence Darlene Rankin to discuss arts integration plans for the coming school year at this location. A collaborative, large scale mural for the school's entryway has been discussed. Many materials are being considered for this collaborative mural including ceramic tiles, Masonite, plywood, and paper. Much consideration is being given to the eventual permanent installation of all the artwork's pieces. Riviello has been an enthusiastic supporter of this project. Different names are being considered for this project including, "Many Cultures, One Heart." Art

teacher Raquel Ford has been working closely with Professor Samaras to make this vision of a large-scale student-generated mural a reality. Keeping with the Dodge Foundation's theme for the school year, diversity, this mural will be made of outlines of the school's students' hands. The smaller hands will comprise two larger hands that will come together in a heart shape to symbolize love. In the photo is Ford and Samaras' scale model of the project.

Students Get In Touch With Nature

On November 13th, the third grade class at Public School No. 27 was treated to a presentation by Gerald Zelenka from A Touch of Nature, a Clifton-based company that brings audiences a touch away from nature and seeks to develop within their audiences an appreciation for all living things. Zelenka brought in many animals such as a mourning dove, a turtle, an alligator, and chinchilla. The students' favorite animal seemed to be a boa constrictor, judging by their amazed reaction. Zelenka also discussed the importance of a clean environment, and how animals adapt to survive.



Spanky, the Bearded Dragon, Comes to Class



A pre-K class at the Dale Avenue School taught by Sheryl Genarelli and Carolina Olivero had a special visitor recently. Genarelli brought in her bearded dragon, Spanky, for the students to interact with and observe as part of the class' "pet study." Students were able to see what kind of food the lizard eats (meal worms) and see what special items she needs in her habitat (a heat lamp, rocks and pieces of wood for natural bedding). Students also learned that bearded dragons do not drink water like

other animals. They absorb it through their skin. Students touched the bearded dragon and described her skin as rough, soft, pointy, and dry.

Upcoming Events

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 p.m. Dismissal for Students/1:20 Staff

Nov. 28 & 29: Thanksgiving Recess

District Closed

Dec. 5: Strategic Plan & Action Steps Community Forum

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at PS 5, 430 Totowa Avenue

Dec. 6: Staff In-Service

1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

Dec. 9: Strategic Plan & Action Steps Community Forum

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Dr. Hani Awadallah School, 515 Marshall St.

Dec. 11: Board of Education Workshop

6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 90 Delaware Avenue

Dec. 17: Annual District STEM Expo

9:30 a.m. at William Paterson University

Dec. 17: Strategic Plan & Action Steps Community Forum

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at PS 26, 1 East 32nd Street

Dec. 18: Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

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.