

# Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

March 9, 2020

## Knight Time Set For Sectional Finals

*Kennedy Beats Hackensack in 61-60 Nail Biter*

In a thriller that kept fans on the edge of their seats, the Kennedy Knights beat the Hackensack Comets 61-60 on Saturday to advance to the North 1, Group 4 sectional finals for the first time since 1998. It was sophomore Yasen Crawford's free throw that put the Knights in the lead with seven seconds on the clock. Deishon Harrison, a senior guard, led the Knights with 20 points, including a clutch three-pointer near the end of the fourth quarter. The Knights' win on Saturday followed the team's second consecutive Passaic County Championship title won on Feb. 29 against Eastside, and the Knights' victories over West Orange on Tuesday and Passaic on Thursday. Top-ranked Kennedy will face No. 3 Ridgewood in the sectional finals on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Kennedy Educational Complex gymnasium.



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## COVID-19 Preparedness Underway in District

Since cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) have been reported in the United States, the district has been promoting precautions against the virus while preparing for the possibility of the virus spreading to the district. A [COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\) webpage](#) has been added to the district's website, which has made resources available, including videos and posters, to help promote effective handwashing and other precautions. The page also is keeping a record of all district communications regarding the virus. Last week, Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer sent a letter to parents that included precautions against the virus and an update of the district's actions up to that point. The Facilities Department is ensuring that the custodial service is cleaning and disinfecting touch points on a nightly basis, including doorknobs, horizontal surfaces, handrails, and lavatory fixtures and accessories. The department has also begun distributing disinfecting wipes to district schools. Deputy Superintendent Susana Perón scheduled meeting of all school-based supervisors on Monday to develop contingency plans for student instruction. A meeting of the Task Force on COVID-19 Preparedness, led by Deputy Superintendent Perón, has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th. People with questions can call the district's Information Call Center. English speakers should call 973-321-0609. For Spanish, call 973-321-0611. For Arabic, call 973-321-0610. For Bangla, call 973-321-0612.

## PPS Census Week Begins Today



Today, March 9th, marks the beginning of Paterson Public Schools' Census Week, a week of activities in the school district to promote awareness and responsiveness to the 2020 U.S. Census. Census-driven curricula has been developed for all grades in the district, as well as plans for the distribution of reading resources and student

assemblies at individual schools. Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer held a press conference on Thursday at the New Roberto Clemente Middle School with Mayor Andre Sayegh and The Paterson Alliance's Inge and David Spungen.

### Follow PPS Social Media!

On **Facebook**, it's @PatersonPublicSchools.  
On **Instagram**, it's Paterson\_Public\_Schools\_NJ.  
On **Twitter**, it's @Paterson\_Public.



## Edcamp Paterson Draws Teachers To Improve Practices

Paterson Public Schools hosted a unique professional development opportunity for more than 100 teachers on Feb. 29th called an Edcamp. In an Edcamp, it is the teachers who attend who set the agenda and deliver the expertise rather than paid consultants and lecturers. "Everyone in this room is a teacher who has developed his or her own best practices. You have the benefit of your own experiences and perspectives," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer in her welcoming remarks. "And all of you have so much enthusiasm for teaching that you are putting time in early on a Saturday morning to be here with the purpose of becoming better teachers." Topics of the breakout sessions had titles such as *Is Your Equity Lens 2020?*, *Keeping Momentum In Trying Times*, *Mindfulness-Based Interventions in the Classroom*, and *Tech Treasures: Three Great Websites You're Not Using*. Shafer thanked the district educators who worked to make the Edcamp possible including Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren and teachers Samantha Darden, Dana LaGarde, Barbara Malone, and Ashona Smiley.



## RPHS and SET students visit MSU Communications School



Students and teachers from The School of Education and Training and Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine and Performing Arts took a tour of Montclair State University (MSU)'s School of Communications and Media on Friday. The tour was led by Tom Franklin, an MSU professor and former photographer for *The Record* who took the iconic photograph of three firefighters raising the American flag at Ground Zero. The

tour featured MSU's state of the art facilities, as well as other professors and adjuncts including News 12 NJ's Kurt Siegelin, *New York Daily News* Sports Columnist Filip Bondy, WCBS 880 AM news copter reporter Tom Kaminski, and former cameraman for ABC, CBS and NBC "Professor G" Gantt. Students and teachers also learned about how to apply for MSU's upcoming [Summer Journalism Workshop](#) in June.

## Five BTMF Students Qualify for National Business Competition



Five School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance (BTMF) students have qualified to compete in the upcoming International Career Development Conference, an event sponsored by DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America). DECA is a national nonprofit organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Juniors Sammia Begum, Mackiah Henry, and Arnett

Pena, qualified with their startup business plan called *Mission Aquaponics*.

Meanwhile, senior twins Anyeli and Enyeli Galvez qualified for the national competition with their marketing campaign for the student-run bank at Kennedy High School, *The Castle: Where Knights Do Their Banking*. The Galvez sisters won \$1000 scholarships, and BTMF's DECA chapter president, Savanah Vargas, won a \$1,500 scholarship. The qualifications for the national conference were just a part of last week's NJDECA Conference in Atlantic City where BTMF students won big. BTMF DECA's Social Media Director Ezaz Syed, a junior, was staged as NJDECA's January 2020 Student of the Month. Ninth-grader Janecia Bygrave, junior Jacky Delgado and ninth-grader Chelsey Medina collectively received a mini award for their marketing campaign, *Take a Bliss Break with Blistex*. The BTMF DECA chapter was acknowledged for being very active, and particularly for growth in membership, promotional activities, and community service. The 31 BTMF students who attended the state conference was a recorded number for the school.

## Principal Earns Ed Leadership Certification from Harvard

Public School No. 10 Principal Lolita Vaughan has completed the requirements for the Certificate in Advance Education Leadership (CAEL), an online professional development certificate offered by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. The certificate requires the completion of at least four 12-week online modules. Each module is led by a Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty member with content that draws from the curriculum of the Ed.L.D. program. The modules include weekly formative assignments and a summative, job-embedded final project. Vaughan has completed modules entitled *Leading Learning*, *Driving Change*, *Developing Myself*, and *Managing Evidence*.



## PPS Students Among Winners in IPAC's Black History Month Contest

Paterson Public Schools students from throughout the district were among the top prize winners in the Inner Faith Performing Arts Center's 2020 Black History Month Art and Essay Contest. A total of 13 students from the district won top honors in the contest in which more than 400

submissions were made, according to Rahsona Elder, an alumna of the Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine and Performing Arts who founded the Inner Faith Performing Arts Center in 1998. The contest is open to K-12 students in all schools throughout Passaic County. This year, students were



asked to consider quotations by notable African Americans including Booker T. Washington, Chance The Rapper, Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. Students were then asked to create a work of art based on one of the quotations. Students in grades four to 12 had the option of writing an essay based on one of the quotes. This year's judges were Paterson board of Educational Commissioner Vincent Arrington, Paterson City Councilwoman Ruby Cotton, Paterson First Lady Farhanna Sayegh, and Community Activist Nancy Grier. All of the student-winners were honored at a special event at the Paterson Museum on Feb. 28.

The district's winning students were:

**Public School No. 13:** Talia Martin, Grade 3, Second Place – art category, K-3 • Quetzalli Garcia, Grade 3, Third Place – art category, K-3

**Public School No. 28:** Amarol Salazar, Grade 5, First Place, art category, 4-8 • Gazal Quatos, Grade 5, Second Place, art category, 4-8 • Janah Mustafa, Grade 5, First Place, essay category, 4-8

**Senator Frank Lautenberg School (Public School No. 6):** Emelyn Cortorreal, Grade 8, Second Place, essay category • Brianna Askew, Grade 8, Third Place, essay category

**PANTHER Academy:** Marquette Myles, Grade 12, First Place, art category, high school • Jose Santiago, Grade 12, Third Place, art category, high school • Kenneth Calvo, Grade 10, Second Place, essay category, high school • Dariasia Everett, Grade 9, Third place, essay category, high school

**Garrett Morgan Academy:** Shamary Chiqillanqui, Grade 11, Second Place, art category, high school

**Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine and Performing Arts:** Jared Barnes, Grade 11, First Place, essay category, high school

## Read Across America Brings Readers Across The District

Read Across America Week was in full swing as people from throughout Paterson and across the state came to the district's classrooms to read classic Dr. Seuss titles and other books. Guest readers included Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer, Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh, N.J. State Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, Paterson Board of Education Commissioners Vince Arrington and Corey Teague, Paterson Public Schools Chief of Staff Pamela Powell, President and CEO of the United Way of Passaic



County Yvonne Zuidema, and William Paterson University (WPU) Provost Josh Powers. The week was also marked by some very special occasions. The Cat in the Hat himself made an appearance at the Dr. Hani Awadallah School, thanks to the help of the Paterson Education Association. Second grade teachers at the Charles J. Riley School served up green eggs and ham for breakfast. And a group of young male aspiring educators from the School of Education and Training (SET) went to Public School No. 28 to show younger students that "Real Men Read." The "Real Men Read" initiative is aimed at encouraging elementary school-aged boys to read and is the idea of WPU Early Childhood and Elementary Education Professor David Fuentes. Fuentes is also teaching the SET students in dual enrollment courses, which give the students the chance to earn college credit for high school graduation.





## **Negro League History Comes Alive At GOPA**

Students in Michelle Hamlett's history class at the School of Government and Public Administration (GOPA) had a unique lesson on Negro League Baseball history, thanks to a grant implemented by William Paterson University and the National Park Service. Dr. Larry Hogan, author of *Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of the African-American Baseball*, gave a presentation on the amazing talents of players who were kept out of Major League



Baseball due to segregation. With his associate, poet Kevin Kane, Dr. Hogan highlighted the Paterson's Hinchliffe Stadium and Paterson's own barrier-breaker (and Eastside High School alum), Larry Doby. Great Falls National Historical Park Ranger Ilyse Goldman was instrumental in arranging the visit.

## **Affirmative Action Training Held**

The Affirmative Action Officer Houry Yeganeh conducted a professional development session for building-based Affirmative Action representatives on February 6th. The topic of the session was "Case Analysis" and the focus was to work in groups on assigned Affirmative Action scenarios. Affirmative Action district policies and procedures were reviewed along with state and federal laws. Representatives had to assess the assigned scenario in their groups, decide if the assigned scenario was under Affirmative Action purview, HIB and/or other purviews, and then apply protocols and follow district policies in resolving/addressing the issue at hand. Groups had to present to their peers after analyzing their case. The session was extremely interactive with input from the team, stimulating conversations took place and feedback was provided. Building-based Affirmative Action representatives are volunteer staff members who go above and beyond their contractual duties to assist their school leader and the Central Office-based Affirmative Action officer by investigating student-on-student discrimination cases, ensuring bias-free education for all students, sharing Affirmative Action related policies to school staff, and ensuring that the Affirmative Action program is implemented effectively. Representatives are also encouraged to share the information from professional development sessions to school staff during an assigned professional development day.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March 11: Progress Reports**

pre-K to 12th grade

### **March 11: Board of Education Workshop Meeting**

6:30 p.m. Central Office Building, 90 Delaware Ave.

### **March 18: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

7 p.m. Kennedy Educational Complex, 61-127 Preakness Ave.

### **March 20: Paterson Education Association Day**

1:00 p.m. Student dismissal

### **March 27: Elementary Choice Applications Deadline**

Dual Language Program at EWK, Fine & Performing Arts and Young Men's Academy applications are due.

### **April 10 - 13: Good Friday and Easter Monday**

District Closed

### **April 10 - 17: Spring Break**

Schools Closed