

# Paterson Post

*Preparing All Children for College and Career*

*Together We Can!*

**December 17, 2018**



Happy Holidays from the Central Office Staff

## Superintendent Testifies Before State Committee



Superintendent Eileen Shafer testified before the Joint Committee on Public Schools at the Statehouse in Trenton. She spoke on whether the state's QSAC system was an appropriate tool in deciding whether a public school district should be under state control. "In a 10-year period, from 2007 to 2017, Paterson Public Schools went through nine QSAC cycles – all of which lasted several days, all of which took resources away from our core mission of educating students to fulfilling QSAC requirements," said Shafer. Paterson Education Fund Executive Director Rosie Grant also testified before the Joint Committee. Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, a committee member, commended both Shafer and Grant for their remarks on behalf of the Paterson Public Schools. Also present at the hearing were Deputy Superintendent of Schools Susana Peron, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Diodonet, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joanna Tsimpedes, and Culture, Climate & Non-Traditional Programs Director Theodore "T.J." Best.

## PPS and Paterson Rotary Join Forces in Coat Drive



Edward W. Kilpatrick Principal Derrick Hoff was joined by Superintendent Eileen Shafer and members of the Paterson Rotary Club on Monday in distributing coats to the school's students. Students were also treated to the thrill of a visit from Santa Claus.

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## First Lady, IHS Students Bring Reading, Holiday Cheer to Dale Avenue School

Paterson First Lady Farhanna Sayegh and several student volunteers from International High School (IHS) surprised Dale Avenue School students on Monday with giving bags filled with books. The books were collected and distributed by members of IHS' National Honors Society and Grand Ladies Ascending to Magnificence in Society (GLAMS). The event culminated with a story read to the children by the first lady. The event was part of the first lady's "Paterson Reads" literacy initiative.



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## You Better Watch Out!



Public School 2 cafeteria staff and Principal Felisa Van Liew recently serenaded kindergarten students during breakfast with the Christmas song, *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*.

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## Multiplication Brings Sweet Rewards at Public School 1



Students in grades 3 to 5 at Public School 1 (a.k.a. Renaissance One School of Humanities) are in a heated competition for some cool treats. First class to have all students complete their 12-times table worksheets will win an ice cream sundae party. The prize is the cherry on the top of a contest of "The Multiplication Sundae Challenge," a contest/learning experience led by teachers Stefanie DiLauri and Lee Ann Powner. The teachers have been employing different learning strategies as students have been memorizing a different multiplication table each week, and completing a sundae-themed coloring sheet to track their growth.



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## Moon Watchers at Public School 18

Frank Pignataro's fifth grade science students learned about the phases of the moon by building a 3-D model. With the use of colored glitter, paper bowls, poster board, and creative imaginations, the "moon watchers" depicted the different ways the moon looks throughout one month.



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## Arts Field Trip at WPU



Students from the New Roberto Clemente School and Don Bosco Technical Academy in Paterson, NJ, visited William Paterson University (WPU) to learn about large-scale art production, and see the exhibition of *Selections from Women's Rights Are Human Rights: International Posters on Gender-based Inequality, Violence and Discrimination*.

The first stop on this trip was WPU's Power Art Center where WPU masters in fine arts students Feride Comen and Sarah Schwindt and WPU Galleries Director Kristen

Evangelista demonstrated robots, and led students through a virtual reality room, a 3-D printer room, a painting and ceramics studio. Paterson students saw many WPU art student works in the halls.

At the poster exhibit, Evangelista taught the students many facts about the posters done by both male and female artists, and led a discussion on them.

Next, the Paterson students worked with Deborah Guzman Meyer, Emily Johnson and WPU art student Angel Fosuhene, to create miniature shrines for civic, political, and religious leaders that were important to them.

Their mixed media artworks comprised a work entitled "Social Media Shrines," which celebrated leaders such as the Dali Lama, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The project enabled students to reflect on social justice after viewing the women's rights poster exhibit. The trip was made possible with a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Art Integration grant.

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## ACT's Engineering Students Visit Rutgers

Engineering students from Architecture and Construction Trades High School (ACT) recently visited Rutgers University to become familiar with the different engineering majors offered at the school. Students got an overview of Rutgers' engineering program and participated in a lecture about civil engineering.



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## DBTA Arts Integration Project



An arts integration project involving music, art and live performance was recently undertaken at Don Bosco Technical Academy. Students researched master art works, including paintings by Vincent van Gogh, Keith Haring, and Piet Mondrian. Then, the students painted their depictions of the masterworks onto white buckets using acrylic paint. Students later learned how to play the "art drums," and learned how sound is created with the drums. Students prepared for a performance on report card night on December 4th at Don Bosco. The teachers who collaborated on this project were art teacher Patty Kaminski and music teacher Michael

Hayden. They were advised by Professor Heejung An, William Paterson University Professor in Residence Triada Samaras, and Robin O'Brien.

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## Professional Artists Come To RPHS

Two professional artists worked with students at Rosa Parks High School as part of the schools Careers in the Arts and Beyond program. Tony Turner, a professional photographer, worked with students on adjusting camera settings and lighting. He discussed strategies for capturing the best photographic moments. He also talked about how professional photographers promote themselves and their work.



"It's tough to get clear, crisp photos when shooting performances here. Tony showed us some strategies to ensure we get great photos even with high movement subjects and poor lighting," said Iyana Williams, a junior communication arts student who works on the school newspaper. "I'm excited that I feel more confident taking photos both for the newspaper and in general."



Students from the vocal ensemble class participated in a six-session series, "Preparing for College Auditions."

Dr. Lauren Fowler-Calisto, director of choral activities at William Paterson University, taught repertoire appropriate for college music department auditions. During the final master class on Dec. 6, seven of the students performed two pieces, one in English, the other in German or Italian. They performed before a panel of judges that included Principal Cora Quince, music teacher Young Suh, Garden State Opera Director Francesco Santelli, and RPHS alum and tenor Jeremy Watson.

The Careers in the Arts & Beyond program is sponsored in part by a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council administers the grant.



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## RPHS Pianists Bring Cheer to Dialysis Patients

On Wednesday, December 12, Rosa Parks High School piano students Khadija Moody, Crystal Ortiz, Emel Rodriguez, Jose Mejia-Aponte, and Alexa Mejia brought some holiday cheer as they performed holiday classics for the patients at the DaVita East Paterson Dialysis Center. Their selections included *Silent Night* and *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*. Their teacher is Bernie Visto.



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## The Comfort Closet



Public School 21 Resource Teacher Shakia McKinney gathered a team of her colleagues – KellyAnn Charles, Mignon Jackman and Andrea Gillispie – and developed “The Comfort Closet.” The Comfort Closet is a safe space where students can receive free hygienic items when in need such as sanitary napkins, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and soap. The resource became particularly handy when a local family fell victim to a fire. McKinney expressed her appreciation to all who donated items to The Comfort Closet.

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## Public School 28 Plans for a Greener Tomorrow

Public School 28 teachers have been beautifying school grounds with the help of a City Green Big Dig grant. They led students in designing a sustainable Monarch Recovery Garden to increase the local monarch butterfly population. Teachers also led efforts to team up with Starbucks and City Green in planting 3,000 daffodil bulbs in the City of Paterson, which was the city’s first daffodil project. Two hundred of the bulbs were planted in front of Public School 28, and they are expected to bloom next spring.



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## JFK Student Video Wins Free Soccer Clinic



Student athletes at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex scored a free soccer clinic with a video they created for a contest sponsored by [Pepsi](#) and the [New York City FC](#). NYCFC Youth Coaches provided the clinic on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Pennington Park. The Kennedy students' video was one of two entries to win the contest. There were 73 entrees from New Jersey and Connecticut that competed.

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### Upcoming Events

#### **Dec. 19: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex  
6:00 p.m. PARCC Recognition Ceremony  
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

#### **Dec. 21: Early Dismissal**

#### **Dec. 24, 2018 - Jan. 2, 2019: Winter Recess**

**Effective Academic Programs • Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures  
Family & Community Engagement • Efficient & Responsive Operations**

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