

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career

Together We Can!

January 14, 2019

Students Honored for PARCC Excellence



At the last Board of Education meeting before the winter recess, 165 students were honored for achieving the highest scores in the district on the last round of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. Two students, Imani Reaves of the Alexander Hamilton Academy and Salman Chowdhury of the Gifted and Talented Academy, received perfect scores in both the math and literacy arts sections of the PARCC exam and were featured in a *Paterson Press* news story on northjersey.com. “Few occasions can bring as

much joy to a schools superintendent than a celebration of homegrown academic excellence and achievement,” said Superintendent Eileen Shafer.

New Year, New Board of Education Members

Paterson Public Schools’ newest Board of Education members, Eddy Olivares and Robinson Rondon, were sworn in by the honorable Passaic County Surrogate Judge Bernice Toledo at the board’s annual reorganization meeting. Re-elected board members also took the oath of office that night; Manuel Martinez was sworn in by N.J. State Senator Nellie Pou, Oshin Castillo was sworn in by Passaic Mayor Hector Lora, and Nakima Redmon was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Latoyia Jenkins. Castillo and Redmon were both re-elected as board president and vice-president, respectively, by their board colleagues.



Arrington, Schutte Thanked for Their Service

Paterson Public Schools administrators and Board of Education members thanked departing board commissioners Vincent Arrington and Jessica Schutte whose terms ended at the end of 2018. Arrington, who works as an information technology analyst, was appointed to board last January after former Board President Chris Irving took an education job outside of the district. Schutte, who has four children attending Paterson schools, was appointed to the board in August after former board member Flavio Rivera was elected to the Paterson City Council.



VH1, Sound Start “Save the Music” at Public Schools 24 & 16



Paterson Public Schools officials welcomed representatives from the VH1 Save The Music and Sound Start Foundations to the holiday concert at the Academy of the Fine and Performing Arts (Public School 24) where the foundations announced grants that will revitalize the music programs at the academy and Public School 16. More than \$80,000 in musical instruments and teaching materials were donated to the schools. “While the district has been hiring enthusiastic and effective music teachers in our schools, we know that a school’s music program is limited when it

cannot provide instruments to their students,” said Deputy Schools Superintendent Susana Peron. Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh, who was among the dignitaries present for the announcement, said the donations would be “instrumental” in revitalizing music education in Paterson elementary schools.

P-TECH Applications Now Being Accepted

Applications for the Pathways in Technology and Early College High School (P-TECH) program at P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy are now being accepted. Applications are available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded from the [Paterson Public Schools website](#). Applications are due Friday, February 1 by 11:59 p.m. The P-TECH program was unveiled in November at a news conference in which New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that the state Department of Education would provide a grant of \$300,000 to launch the program. P-TECH graduates earn a high school diploma and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in a STEM

(science, technology, engineering and mathematics) field. Graduates have the option of continuing their studies or beginning work in a STEM industry.

AP Capstone Diploma Program Coming to 12 Paterson High Schools

Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer announced this month that in the 2019-2020 school year, the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma will be offered at the district's 12 choice high schools, which are thematically oriented to particular careers and fields. The AP Capstone Diploma program enables students to develop research, collaboration, and communication skills to help them achieve success in college and in their careers. "Make no mistake, this is a challenging program," Shafer said. "But meeting great challenges means great rewards. And students who meet the challenges of the AP Capstone program will be ready for college and able to achieve career success." Associate Chief Academic Officer Eric Crespo said the program meets the districts goals of preparing students for college and careers through academic rigor. "We encourage all Paterson students, whether they are in high school or looking forward to beginning high school, to consider the AP Capstone program as an investment in their own future successes," Crespo said.

Paterson's Lady #1 Reads at School #2

Paterson First Lady Farhanna Balagahoom Sayegh joined Public School 2 Principal Felisa Van Liew for a reading to a gathering of students in kindergarten through the third grade. The book they read was *The Eagles Who Thought They Were Chickens* by Michael Wynn. It was read in English by Sayegh and in Spanish by staff member Jaquelina Gil, who also provided the illustrations.



STEM Students Study "Current" Events

At the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Brian Grilk's 11th-grade students were tasked to build a direct current generator powered by a renewable energy source (water, wind, etc.). The generator then had to be used to power a 2-watt light bulb. To complete the task, students had to apply concepts such as moment of torque, rotational inertia, applied voltage, and amplification of torque through a gear set transmission. The completed projects will be on display at the STEM school.



STEM Expo Features Students' Inquiries and Innovations



William Paterson University (WPU) hosted 167 Paterson Public Schools K to 8 students at the district's third annual STEM Expo. Superintendent Eileen Shafer and other district leaders were on hand to bestow awards for the first, second and third place winners in categories that were either focused on scientific inquiry or innovation. Sarah Laldee, the district's supervisor of science who led the preparation for the event, expressed her appreciation to the district's science teachers who took on the extra responsibilities of helping their students compete in the STEM Expo.

"Teachers are the real stars here in terms of making it happen: running their school-based expo and helping students put together projects," Laldee said. Laldee thanked all who served as judges at the expo including the district's math and science supervisors and three Public School 2 alumni: Eric Atempa, Cee-Asia Walker, and Shaquasia Walker. She also thanked Administrative Assistant Jennifer Foster, Rose Rios and the Abuela Lucy Foundation, Nancy Norris-Bauer and Susan Stansfield at the WPU Office of Professional Development & School/Community Partnerships.



Assemblywoman Sumter Hears Student Immigrant Stories



Before the winter recess, N.J. State Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter visited Jason Velante's ESL class at Public School 21 where she heard the students' written stories about immigrating to the United States.

Eastside Student Athlete Scores Big



Ky'Zirah Townes, center, senior student-athlete for the Eastside High School Campus' Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Game Ball prize from Jersey Sports Zone, a New Jersey high school sports news website. Townes recorded a TRIPLE DOUBLE: 19 points, 13 rebounds, and 11 assists against Bogota High School on January 5th.



A Few Holiday Leftovers



NRC Rings In the Holidays



New Roberto Clemente Middle School students performed in their annual holiday concert. They were led by Musical Director Nathan Webb.

A First (Noel) Responder



The Paterson Fire Department visited Public School 20 students with Santa Claus as a surprise guest. The children were excited by holiday cheer, candy canes and gifts donated by the fire department.

Doors Break on Through to Spirit Week



Academy of Earth and Space Science students celebrated spirit week with a door decorating contest. The winning entry was submitted by students in rooms 113 and 114 for their theme, "A Senior Class Christmas."

Grinch Bypasses Whoville for RPHS



The Rosa Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts' talented students celebrated the holidays by performing their musical show, "Grinchmas." The dynamic musical is based on Dr. Seuss' holiday classic tale.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

District Closed

Jan. 22: Special Meeting of the Board of Education

6:00 p.m. at the 90 Delaware Ave. Administrative Offices

Jan. 31: 2nd Marking Period Ends

Feb. 1: Staff In-service

1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

Feb. 6: Board of Education Workshop

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

Feb. 11: Report Card Distribution

All Pre-K-8. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Feb. 12: Report Card Distribution

School 7, Don Bosco, NRC. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

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

Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).
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