

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career

Together We Can!

February 11, 2019

A Hero's Welcome For Nicole Louden



Nicole Louden, Passaic County's all-time highest scoring high school basketball player, returned to the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex gymnasium on Feb. 7 where her Lady Knight's number 11 was retired. Louden scored 2,928 points – more than any other Passaic County player, male or female – before graduating from Kennedy High School in 2001. Louden was as competitive in the classroom as she was on the basketball court, and earned a full scholarship to Auburn University in Alabama where she played all four years. Louden

went on to play for Jamaica's national basketball team, and competed in countries all over the world including Israel, the Czech Republic, and Spain. In 2015, Louden earned her Master of Business Administration from Cornell University. Many of Louden's family members joined her for the ceremony, as well as her high school varsity basketball coach, Lou Bonora. "Nicole is proof-positive that hard work can make dreams come true," said Superintendent Eileen Shafer during her remarks at the ceremony.

PPS Schools Celebrate Black History

Public School 21 Becomes a Black History Museum

At Public School 21, students and staff have been transforming the school building into an African-American multicultural museum. Each floor has its own theme: the basement features music, the first floor focuses on dance, the second floor highlights historically black colleges, and the third floor is an exhibit on black activism. These themes will also be a part of Public School 21's upcoming Black History Month program.

African-American Ancestors Honored at Public School 13

Students and faculty at Public School 13 celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 5 with a special ceremony. The ceremony included a symbolic lighting of three candles: a red candle that represented the blood of African-Americans' ancestors, a green candle that represented the wealth of Africa and the growth of African-Americans, and a black candle that represented unity. The ceremony ended with participants singing, *Lift Every Voice And Sing*, the African-American national anthem.

Jaysen Triunfer, Knights Defensive Lineman, Gets Full-Ride to Kansas College



Surrounded by many of his coaches and his brother, Miguel, John F. Kennedy Football Knights defensive lineman Jaysen Triunfer signed a letter of intent and scholarship agreement from Fort Scott Community College (FSCC) in Fort Scott, Kansas. In signing the letter, Triunfer accepted a full scholarship awarded to him by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) school. Triunfer is a senior at STEM Academy at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex who intends to major in forensic science. He made the second All-Passaic County football team last

season. He will report to practice in July.

Paterson Music Project Winter Concert Features Young Paterson Musicians

More than 200 Paterson Public Schools elementary and middle school students performed in the Paterson Music Project's Winter Concert on Feb. 2 at the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts (RPHS). The Paterson Music Project (PMP) provides after school music instruction at Public Schools 1, 26, the Norman S. Weir School, as well as the Paterson Community Charter School. In her remarks, Superintendent Eileen Shafer thanked RPHS Principal Jalyn Lyde and Arts Supervisor Michelle Van Hoven for opening the school to the program. She also thanked PMP Program Director Elizabeth Moulthrop, PMP Education Director Shanna Lin, and Helen Cha-Pyo, the artistic director for PMP's umbrella organization, the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts, for their efforts.

PANTHER's Young Women Take The LEAD

Paterson First Lady Farhanna Sayegh, baker/entrepreneur Derya Taskin, and Paterson Councilwoman Lilisa Mimms were among the dozens of women professionals who offered career advice to young women at PANTHER Academy on Jan. 31. Thirty students met with women from various careers in two-minute intervals in a speed-networking exercise that was part of the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey's LEAD (Learn, Explore, Aspire, Dream) program. Mentors came from a variety of professional backgrounds including medicine, law, marketing, and entrepreneurship. PANTHER Principal Charla Holder, Ed.D. gave the opening welcome to the event, which was sponsored by the Girl Scouts and the Bergen/Passaic Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.



IHS Hosts Dazzling Chinese New Year Celebration

International High School hosted a spectacular celebration of the Chinese New Year on Feb. 5 with the [Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company](#). After two performances by the dance company, a round-table discussion was held with Nai-Ni Chen, her husband Andy Chiang, and Paterson choreographer Nicholas Rodriguez, a Julliard graduate and Fulbright Scholar. The day ended with Nai-Ni Chen leading a workshop for students about Chinese dance. The day was made possible through efforts of Supervisor of School-Based Guidance Sharon Stephens and Teacher Katiuska Esquiche, and through the support of the [Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council \(PCCHC\)](#).



Jamier Wright Collins Wins High Jump Event

Jamier Wright Collins of the Kennedy Knights track team cleared 6 feet, 6 inches to win the high jump event in the NJSIAA State Sectional North 1 Group 4 Championships. He is currently ranked fourth in the state and seventh overall in Passaic County history. Wright Collins, who attends PANTHER Academy, is one of three Kennedy track team members who are All-Passaic County champions. The others are Benae Johnson from International High School and Kevin Francis from Eastside High School's School of Education and Training.



RPHS Drama Students Portray Plight of the Urban Middle Class



Drama students at Rosa Parks High School of the Fine and Performing Arts (RPFS) recently performed *You Shouldn't Have Told*. The play by Anne Thompson-Stretching depicts a middle-class, African-American family who live amidst the urban realities of Brooklyn's Brownsville section. They confront issues of sexual abuse, family betrayal and a tragic death. After a matinee performance, the school's guidance counselors assisted in a talk that featured some of the cast members.

Young Men's Leadership Academy Hosts Family Day

The Young Men's Leadership Academy hosted "Family Day" on Jan. 31. This event gave parents and other family members the opportunity to experience the school's learning process by spending time in the classroom during instruction. Parents also participated in a "Lunch and Learn" session with keynote speaker Rosie Grant, executive director of the Paterson Education Fund. The focus of the session was to educate parents about effective restorative practices, which have been implemented as part of the school's culture.



Budgeting a Farm at Public School 12

Public School 12's fifth grade students recently put their financial literacy skills to the test while reviewing different concepts including multi-digit multiplication with algorithms, factoring, and basic operational skills. They were given a \$5,000 budget to design and organize a farm. Students used their imagination to create their original masterpieces.

Eastside Students Featured at WPU's ArtStart Exhibition

Students from Eastside High School's School of Government and Public Administration, School of Information Technology, and School of Culinary Arts participated in the annual ArtStart student exhibition at William Paterson University (WPU). The exhibition featured student artwork from 27 high schools in northern New Jersey. Students were selected on the merit of their artwork, and were honored at a reception at WPU's Power Art Gallery on Feb. 2.



RPHS Student Recognized by National Youth Program

Khadija Moody, a senior at the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts, has been named one of New Jersey's top youth volunteers of 2019 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. Moody has played a leading role in numerous service projects in her community, including a school beautification project in which students painted murals on the walls of more than 20 schools in Paterson. Moody has also helped lead volunteer activities over the years at local shelters, food pantries, community cleanup events and other project sites.



Upcoming Events

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.

Feb. 13: Gifted & Talented Open House

9:00 a.m. at School 28

Feb. 13: Passaic-Bergen-Hudson Transit Project

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Eastside High School

Feb. 13: 2019 School District Budget Community Forum

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Dr. Hani Awadallah School

Feb. 18-19: Presidents' Day Weekend

District Closed

Feb. 20: Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

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

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.