

# — THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

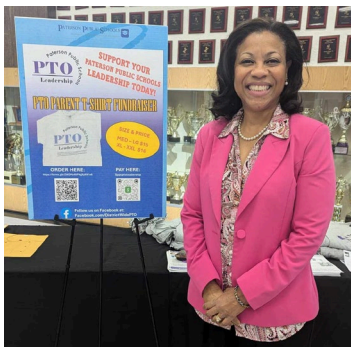
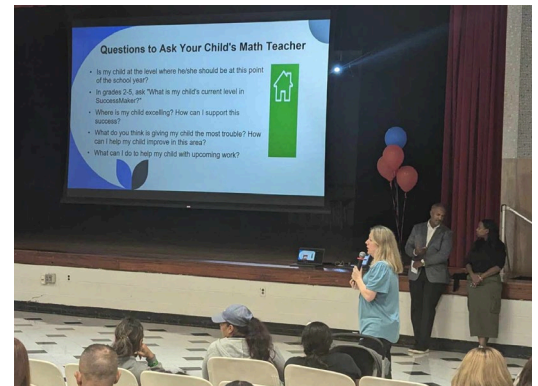
PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

October 2024

## WELCOME BACK PARENTS

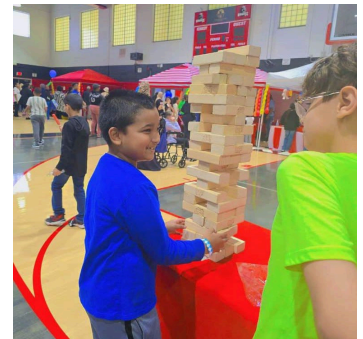
*Annual event introduces parents to another new school year*

The annual PPS Title I Parent Welcome Back to School Kickoff event took place this year at John F. Kennedy High School, marking the start of another exciting school year and celebrating the invaluable role that parents play in their children's education. The event was hosted by the District's Family and Community Engagement Department, in a partnership with the District-Wide PTO, funded by Title I Parent Involvement, and support from the City of Paterson Community Policing Anti-Violence Grant. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell and Board Commissioner Valerie Freeman addressed the attendees. They were accompanied by other notable guests such as Board Vice-President Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Nakima Redmond, district and school administrators, and city officials.



The event was designed to welcome back Paterson Public School parents with a wealth of knowledge and resources in supporting them to guide their children at home. Over 500 parents and families attended, making it one of the most successful turnouts in recent years. More than 30 educational and community resource tables were set up, offering information and assistance on a range of topics that promote student success and parental engagement. Besides presentations from various Paterson Public Schools departments, parents learned of their rights and responsibilities under Title I. Commissioner

Valerie Freeman, head of the BOE's Family and Community Engagement Committee, encouraged parents to get involved in their local PTOs and become active participants in their children's educational experience.



**Paterson—A Promising Tomorrow**

**Together We Can**



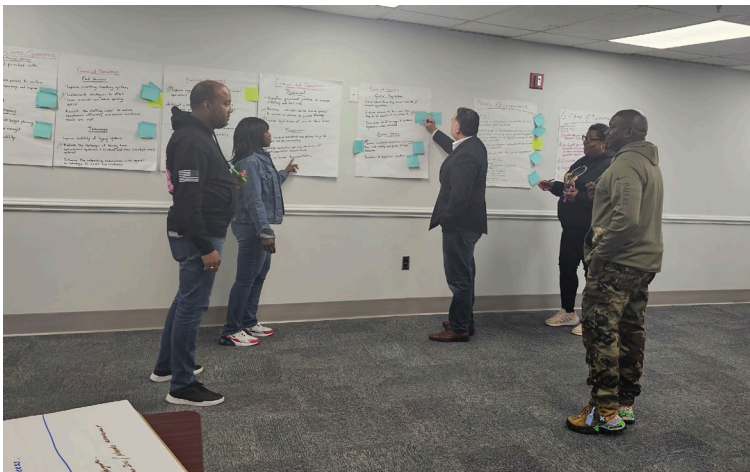
## WELCOME TO PATERSON, DR. McRAY

The District has a new Executive Director to the Superintendent, Dr. Silindra McRay. She will provide direct support to both Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney Henderson, contributing to key initiatives and ensuring efficient district operations.

Dr. McRay's previous roles include Chief Strategy Officer, Special Assistant to the Superintendent for African American Achievement and Leadership, Manager for Employee Relations Investigations, Human Resources Talent Development School Partner, school principal, teacher, and adjunct professor at a public research university.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT



On Saturday, October 19th, the Paterson Board of Education held a retreat at Central Office to review District leadership recommendations, assess program goals, and set priorities for the next 90 days.

Commissioners Kenneth Simmons, Valerie Freeman, Eddie Gonzalez, Joel Ramirez, Mohammed Rashid, and Nakima Redmon joined Superintendent Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Rodney Henderson, and Dr. Silindra McRay in discussions covering gifted and talented programs, family engagement, as well as finance and business operations.



# PATERSON ATTENDS ANNUAL NJSBA WORKSHOP

## Leadership In Training

District leadership attended the NJ School Boards Association's annual workshop in Atlantic City from October 21st – 24th. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Rodney Henderson, and several Cabinet members participated in many seminars, training sessions, and exhibits.. The conference, themed "Quest for Student Success", focused on providing students with the tools they need to succeed. Some topics covered included pursuing academic excellence, promoting mental health, leveraging technology, and negotiating contracts.

[Visit the NJSBA Workshop Website](#)

## Taking Center Stage



School No. 24's student-musicians visited Atlantic City to take part in this year's New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Workshop. Organizers of the annual event, attended by education leaders and board members from across the state, invited the School 24 Band to showcase their hard work and passion for music.

Led by their music teacher and band leader, David Alpaca, the School 24 Band captivated the audience with a three song setlist comprised of "Sway", "Oye Como Va", and "Guantanamera". Listeners immediately took to the rhythms of Latin music, as the band demonstrated their skill and versatility.

Principal Florita Cotto said of the honor, "The opportunity to perform at such a high-profile event is a testament to the dedication of the students and the supportive music program at School 24. This memorable performance reflects not only their musical talent, but also their commitment to excellence."



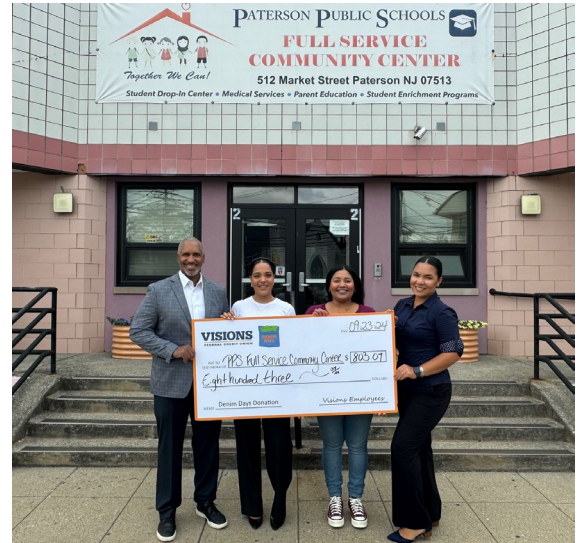


## TOGETHER WE CAN

The District's Family & Community Engagement Department (FCE) received a donation of over \$800 from community partner, Visions Federal Credit Union. The donation was collected from the credit union's employees during a fundraiser aimed at supporting nonprofit organizations. The donations are made monthly. The FCE was chosen for October's donation based on Visions recognition and appreciation of the Paterson Public Schools Full Service Community Center for its hard work for the community.

The funds will be used to help support the center's community boutique, which provides clothes to families in need.

Evelyn Pena, District Wide Community Outreach & Special Projects Coordinator for FCE, said of the donation, "We greatly appreciate the whole team at Visions for their continued support!"



## STANDING TOGETHER



On Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Paterson Public Schools showed their support for breast cancer awareness by wearing pink. Organized by Superintendent Laurie W. Newell and the PPS Central Office Culture & Climate Committee, this initiative brought the school community together to spread awareness and stand united in the fight against breast cancer. "I thank everyone of our staff who participated and helped share this important message," said Dr. Newell.



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## Intercultural Meeting

The National Spanish Honor Societies (NSHS) of Eastside High School and Glen Ridge High School met for their first Intercultural Meeting in an event was organized by the schools' Spanish teachers and NSHS advisors, Marbel Tamayo of Eastside and Maria Dessipris of Glen Ridge.

The objective of the meeting was to promote respect, understanding, appreciation, and the development of intercultural skills that prepare students to live in an increasingly diverse and globalized world. Among the activities presented by Eastside NSHS students were a cultural presentation through Hispanic dances and a parade of traditional Hispanic costumes. At the end of the event, Eastside NSHS students lead merengue dance instruction for Glen Ridge High School students to learn and practice.



## Passports To Learning

Newcomers High School students celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with students working collaboratively during homeroom to research and gather information about a randomly selected Hispanic country. Each homeroom created presentations, brought artifacts and in essence, became experts in that country. On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> the entire student population rotated classrooms, or "traveled to each country". Students were provided passports in which they gathered facts from each presentation and collected flag stickers.





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Carlos Miranda, Paterson P-TECH's Planetarium Manager, has been inducted into National Life Group's "LifeChanger of the Year" program, an annual recognition of K-12 educators and school employees nationwide. The program celebrates those making a significant difference in students' lives by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership. This allows him to be nominated for LifeChanger Of The Year Awards, which grants winners prizes up to \$10,000 that is evenly split between the teacher and their school or district; the award is funded by National Life Group's charitable arm, the National Life Foundation.

Dr. Miranda was anonymously nominated for inclusion into the LifeChanger of the Year program last year and received notice of confirmation only recently.

"I am truly honored to be nominated for the LifeChanger Award," said Dr. Miranda. "This recognition reflects the incredible support of my colleagues and the countless students who have left a lasting impression on me. This award belongs to all the dedicated educators who make a difference every day."

Dr. Laurie W. Newell, the District's Superintendent of Schools, stated, "Paterson Public Schools has many outstanding educators, each of whom dedicates a great part of their life and talent to our students. They recognize the inherent brilliance within our children and work hard to bring it forth. It is a joy each time they are recognized for their efforts. Dr. Miranda continues to be a fine example of our faculty, and I congratulate him on his nomination."



## MEMORIES IN ART

John F. Kennedy students visited the Ben Shahn Art Galleries at the William Paterson University campus in Wayne, NJ to view the art exhibition 'The Armenian Genocide: One Family's Story'. Students reflected on the life journey of their families and considered the way memories could be used to create art. Students were able to create their own assemblage/collage based on their own life story during the artmaking workshop.

Ms. Lym, Mr. Cohn and Mr. Springsteen supervised this field trip on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. JFK students arrived at William Paterson University in the morning for the guided tour and workshop. After lunch, they boarded the bus again for a short ride to the Power Art Building where they had another guided tour in the afternoon of the printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and painting studios.



## BREAKING THE CYCLE

The students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex and School No. 3 were visited by presenters from Breaking the Cycle, a program designed to deliver the message of nonviolent conflict resolution through forgiveness. The presenters, Pat & Annmarie D'Aliso using their own story about the loss of their son to suicide, spoke to students about suicide awareness and prevention. They told the assembly about red flags such as giving away items, money and other items to being out of character. Expecting that some students would have difficulty with this important and sensitive topic, counselors were stationed around the assembly to watch for a thumbs-up sign. Upon seeing one, a student would be escorted to a predetermined room for counseling.

The Breaking the Cycle staff gave high praise to the District for having a plan in place to assist the students who were experiencing mental troubles. They said that in their travels around the country, this was the first time that they saw counselors placed in a position to help the students. Each student and staff member received the book, "Why Forgive?", written by the program's cofounder, Johann Christoph Arnold.



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology (School No. 4) and the Full Service Community School team held a Meet & Greet with parents. The event allowed the participants connect through interactive games, sharing their insights, and even win prizes.

One of the highlights was Mr. Smith's engaging demonstration of the Pocketalk translator device, which translates voice recordings almost immediately. Parents were captivated by its capabilities and one parent had the opportunity to use the device to speak with the principal. This hands-on experience left parents feeling more confident and excited about attending Back to School Night, knowing they can effectively communicate and engage with school staff.





## FIRE SAFETY



The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) school held an event to celebrate Fire Prevention Month. The event offered students opportunities to learn fire safety. The Paterson Fire Department was on hand to provide interactive fire extinguisher training and fire truck, equipment tours, and story reading. Firefighters introduced a new training system, Bullseye, which offers a hands-on experience for attendees to learn proper fire extinguisher techniques in a fun and safe environment. Firefighters also allowed students from grades PSD to 2nd grade to explore the fire trucks and equipment up close, gaining insights into the tools and technology that keep our community safe.

For the children of the school's autistic population, firefighters read engaging stories to foster connections and enhance fire safety education.

"We believe these activities not only promote fire safety, but also strengthen community bonds," said Tammie Harrell-Simmons, MLK's School-Based Special Education Supervisor.

## WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT

At Dr. Hani Awadallah School (DHA), students and staff gathered for a special assembly, all dressed in vibrant yellow to raise awareness for childhood cancer. Representatives from St. Joseph's Hospital led the event which highlighted the importance of supporting young cancer patients and their families, with heartfelt stories and inspiring messages shared. One of DHA's students, Camila Izaguirre, has been dealing with cancer since she was first diagnosed at 1 ½ years old. The sea of yellow not only symbolized hope and solidarity, but also helped educate students on how they can make a difference in the fight against childhood cancer.





# PATERSON REPRESENTATION

## *Eastside High School Student Athlete Adds "Ambassador" To Resume*

Eastside High School Junior Sherley Mambru De La Cruz has been chosen by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) as a Student Ambassador for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. She is on the Eastside Ghosts' Wrestling, Bowling, and Flag Football teams, as well as enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC).

NJSIAA selects 12 student-athletes from its member high schools in the state based on their qualities and character as a student, athlete, and productivity as a citizen in their community. De La Cruz has been described by others as a hard-working student that balances her academics and her extracurricular activities along with her responsibilities as first lieutenant in EHS JROTC program. She is captain on the Girls Flag Football and played in the Zone6ix flag football co-ed All Star game back in June. As an ambassador, she'll be able to present feedback to the NJSIAA Executive Committee and Staff, which will then assist in their development of initiatives for future improvement that will benefit all NJSIAA member schools.

"This is something that I thought I could ever achieve," said De La Cruz.

Flag Football Coach Brandon Pilgrim stated, "It is a pleasure to coach a player like Sherley. She is a great teammate and leader. She's a positive influence on everyone in the locker room and she makes our team better."

Eastside Athletics Supervisor T.J. Hill was the person to nominate De La Cruz for the ambassadorship. "Sherley being selected as an NJSIAA Student-Athlete Ambassador comes as no surprise," he said. "She is extremely dedicated and motivated in all facets of her life. She's very competitive and works to achieve perfection at all costs. Sherley is a testament to our PPS mission and vision in preparing our students for career and life readiness."

The District's Superintendent of School, Dr. Laurie W. Newell reflected on De La Cruz's recognition, "This city has so much potential in its youth. Our educators see that and make every effort to bring out the brilliance of our students. Ms. De La Cruz's hard work ethic and dedication to excellence have earned her a great recognition, not only for herself, but also for her teachers, school, and the District as a whole."

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## Media Coverage

### Television

- CBS New York - [Paterson Public Schools Holds Job Fair Amid Teacher Shortage](#)
- News12 - [Paterson School Officials Turn To Laid Off East Orange Educators To Fill Teacher Positions](#)
- Pix11 - [Paterson Public Schools Hiring For 123 Teacher Openings](#)

### Print

- TAPinto - [New AI Curriculum to be Introduced in Paterson Public Schools](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson Music Project to Continue Serving Local Students](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson Schools Expand Partnership to Bring Therapy Dogs to Classrooms](#)
- TAPinto - [\\$188K Grant Will Enhance Career and Technical Education Programs in Paterson Public Schools](#)
- The Bergen Record - [Paterson middle schoolers now get checked with metal detectors before class](#)
- TAPinto - [Eastside Volleyball Rallies for a 2-1 Victory Over College Achieve Paterson](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson Public Schools Launches Partnership with Brooklyn Nets Community Program at School 20](#)
- Paterson Press - [Paterson student test scores remained well behind the NJ average in 2023. Here's how much](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson Board of Education Increases Public Comment Time at Regular Meetings](#)
- AOL - [Paterson schools will lease office space for \\$1.5M a year. Why they're out of options](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson BOE Candidate: Nakima Redmon](#)
- TAPinto - [Paterson BOE Candidate: Hector Nieves, Jr](#)
- AOL - [Out of this world: Paterson to start renting high school planetarium to outside groups](#)
- Essex News Daily - [East Orange Campus HS football team rolls by Paterson Eastside, 41-3](#)
- Paterson Press - [After 20 years, Paterson school planetarium may now be rented by outside groups](#)
- Paterson Press - [East Orange plans teacher layoffs. Paterson, with 123 vacancies, says 'Come on over!'](#)

### Press Releases

- [Paterson Public Schools Partners With Brooklyn Nets Community For Basketball Clinic At School 20](#)



Join us at Hinchliffe Stadium this Thanksgiving as Eastside High School hosts the 100th Annual Thanksgiving Game against John F. Kennedy High School. Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 28th at 10:30 am and be part of the legendary Turkey Bowl, where fans, alumni, students, and families come together to celebrate this cherished Paterson tradition.

For a century, this game has been at the heart of our community, bringing generations of fans to their feet for an unforgettable day of excitement, pride, and hometown spirit. Stay tuned for more details and don't miss your chance to cheer for your team. Let's make this 100th anniversary a game to remember!



***SAVE-THE-DATE***

***EASTSIDE***

***VS***

***KENNEDY***

THANKSGIVING DAY

***FOOTBALL CLASSIC***

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM

NOVEMBER 28, 2024



**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow  
Together We Can













# NOVEMBER 2024



## SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bring your friend a snack	2 Stretch for 5 minutes 
3 Offer to help a neighbor 	4 Smile at five people	5 Remind yourself that you are enough	6 Take a social media break 	7 Do something outdoors - walk, run, explore	8 Sign up to join a new course group or activity	9 Have a dance party!
10 Practice 3-5 minutes of meditation	11 Go outside and take in all the changes in nature	12 Leave a kind note on a co-worker's desk	13 Appreciate your wins: both big and small!	14 Pet a furry friend!	15  Make an uplifting playlist	16 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about
17 Build on new ideas by thinking, "Yes, and what if..."	18 Change your normal routine and notice how you feel	19 Declutter your space 	20 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	21 Enjoy a scenic route home from work 	22 Broaden your perspective by reading a book or blog	23 Take time to rest today
24 Bake a holiday pie! 	25 Help someone new today	26 Write a thank you note for someone who deserves it	27 Share 3 things you are thankful for	28 Reach out to a loved one for Thanksgiving	29 Call someone and give them a compliment	30 Visit a park for a walk or run 

This information is provided to you by:



**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Department of Student Support Services  
SAC and Social Emotional Learning  
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07503  
Office: (973) 321-0694 [lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us)



## Important Dates

November 5	Election Day - District Closed
November 7-8	NJEA Convention - Schools Closed
November 8	District Closed
November 11	Veterans' Day - District Closed
November 15	1st Marking Period Ends
November 19	1:00 Student Dismissal/Staff PD
November 27	Students & PEA Staff - Early Dismissal
November 28-29	Thanksgiving – District Closed



### Board of Education Meeting

The November 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue. Those who want to give public comments must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The November 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents).

### Language Interpretation

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply choose the preferred language at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents).

***The District Chronicler*** is a publication of the PPS Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. Submit stories and photos to [ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us).

Ms. Aida E. Rosario, Director of Communications  
Mr. Daniel Juan, Coordinator of Communications Department

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