

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

November 2024

A HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MAKING

The Annual Thanksgiving Football Game Celebrates Its Centennial

The 100th Annual Thanksgiving Game took place at Hinchliffe Stadium on Thursday, Nov. 28th. The game's centennial celebration marks the second year that the John F. Kennedy Knights and the Eastside Ghosts football teams play in the renewed Hinchliffe Stadium, one of Paterson's most storied locations.

Both schools celebrated their Top 100 Athletes, with JFK presenting theirs during the pre-game and Eastside during the half-time. Video messages from Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell and Assistant Superintendent David Cozart, Jr. were shown before kick-off.

Superintendent Newell helped continue tradition by doing the opening kick.

Media came to visit the stadium on game day, with [ABC 7](#), [CBS 2](#), and [PIX11](#) doing reports.



Paterson—A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

SPORTSMANSHIP BREAKFAST

Eastside HS hosted the event in their media arts room. Eastside Supervisor of Athletics TJ Hill was the MC for the special event that coincides with this year's annual game being the centennial celebration of the Turkey Bowl. The breakfast is a tradition in which the John F. Kennedy Knights and the Eastside Ghosts football student-athletes and their staff share a meal in the spirit of fairness, respect, and fellowship of competition.

In attendance with players from the two teams were the high school principals, Paul Vander Wende of Eastside and Joanne Riviello of John F. Kennedy. Officials from the District included Board Commissioners Kenneth Simmons and Valerie Freeman, Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell, Assistant Superintendent David Cozart, Jr., and Assistant Superintendent Melissa España. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and David "Deebo" Thompson were special guests.

Superintendent Newell said, "Remember that this breakfast is not just about football; it's about the character you built, the friendships you have forged, and the lessons that you have learned from every win and every set back. These are your greatest accomplishments and what you should take the most pride in celebrating."

Addressing the student-athletes, Assistant Superintendent Cozart said, "People will be talking about this 100th annual game for a long time. You have to make your mark, do your best, and they'll be saying your name in the barbershops for years to come in the same breath as our established legends."



[See the photo album](#)



FOLLOW PPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @PatersonPublicSchools

Twitter: @ PPS_Comm

Instagram: Paterson_Public_Schools_NJ

LinkedIn: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEGENDARY STATUS

The celebration of the centennial game of the Turkeybowl started on Friday, November 23, when the New York Giants organization interviewed Eastside and John F. Kennedy high school football legends, Barret Rosser and Shelton Prescott.

Rosser starred for Eastside in the late 1960s and went on to become the first Black quarterback in the Ivy League at Cornell University. He returned to Eastside as a social worker and coach for girls basketball and football. Shelton Prescott, played for JFK in the early 1990s and went on to become an offensive lineman at Syracuse University. He earned first-team honors in 1996. He returned to his hometown to work for Paterson Public Schools as a Special Education teacher, earning the 2014 Governor's Teacher of the Year Award.

Current players who are eager to add their names to Paterson's roster of legendary athletes were also interviewed. To make the event even more special, they were surprised by a visit from the New York Giants' wide receiver, Malik Nabers.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The Board of Education was introduced to the new student ambassadors for this school year during the Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, November 6th. Shamique Peart is a senior at International HS and Blanca Gonzalez is a junior at Paterson STEAM HS, will officially join the Commissioners for Board meetings starting in January. As ambassadors, the students are responsible for representing the interests of the District's students. The students were chosen at random from a group of high-performing high school students that have experience serving on their respective schools' student government bodies.



Ms. Peart is looking to go into the medical field after graduation. "I am grateful for this opportunity," she said.

Ms. Gonzalez said, "I am honored to be a student representative." She is dual enrollment and attends the college readiness program, Upward Bound, at Montclair State University.

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell said of the two students, "Both of these young ladies have been excellent examples of what a student can achieve when they take advantage of what the District can offer. They're leaders in their respective schools and have bright futures ahead of them. I'm looking forward to their representation of the District's student body."

CHROMEBOOK REPLACEMENT INITIATIVE



The District has had a major reinvestment in new Chromebooks completed this month. The Chromebooks acquired during the COVID-19 Pandemic are coming up on the end of their lifespan. “Digital devices generally have a lifespan of about five years,” said Associate Chief of Technology and Management Information Services Mohammed Saleh, continuing, “so after five years you really need to start thinking about how to get replacements.” Mr. Saleh has been giving this issue thought since he joined in Autumn 2022, making a sustainable Chromebook strategy a priority from the beginning. After a year of reshaping the IT Department, he and his team were ready to take on the daunting project. In October of 2023 they talked about two different methods.

There are 25-30 thousand Chromebooks in use in the District, servicing students and staff. One option would be to stagger replacement, acquiring 5,000 Chromebooks a year to establish a cycle renewal. The other option was to replace all the Chromebooks at once every five years. The latter plan was adopted so that the project could be done in a shorter period of time, the model versions would be more uniform, and financing could be planned years in advance rather than being an annual budget issue.

It took over a month to get the broad strokes of the replacement plan ironed out, after which IT approached the Business Administration (BA) for funding in December. Mr. Saleh’s pricing research showed that the District would need to secure \$10 million dollars to facilitate the replacement plan. Recognizing the need to keep up-to-date devices in circulation to maintain Paterson as a 21st century school district, the BA started their own process of reviewing expenses to find where funds can be secured. The Board of Education was presented with the costs during the 2024 Budget presentation and approved the funding.

Different Chromebook models were ordered to best fit three types of users, grades K-2, grades 3-12, and teachers. For grades K-2, HP Pro X360s were ordered. These devices have touch screens because many younger students do not have the physical ability or motor skills to manipulate a trackpad and keyboard, so the touch function allows them to use their fingers to interact. The HP Chromebook G9 were ordered for students in grades 3 -12. Students begin taking state tests in third grade, so they would have to learn how to manipulate the keyboard and mouse by this age. Finally, the slightly larger HP Chromebook G7 model was procured for instructional staff throughout the District. These devices are better suited for teaching due to the added RAM and increased computing power that will better allow teachers the ability to have multiple programs open simultaneously. The devices were appropriated through CDW, a vendor that the District works with for technology needs.

The effort to keep the District up to date is part of the Technology Department's efforts to address Digital Equity. Without current devices, students stand to suffer the experience of a curtailed education and staff will not have the tools to provide a modern curriculum. As part of the effort, IT has also purchased Optimum Wi-Fi so that families that cannot afford their own connection can use the District's at home. For Mr. Saleh, providing a device that the students can take home to use is very satisfying. "Some of the kids, this is the only device that they have in the family," he said. "It's important that learning can continue at home."

CHECKING IN

On November 4th, Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools, stopped by the preschool at the YMCA, located at 128 Ward St, to check in with the District's potential future students. The Superintendent read stories to students and met with staff during her visit.



FOLLOW PPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @PatersonPublicSchools

Twitter: @ PPS_Comm

Instagram: Paterson_Public_Schools_NJ

LinkedIn: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hispanic Heritage Celebrations Continue

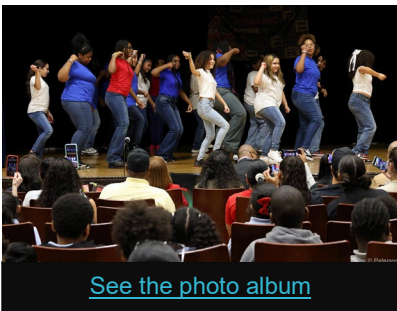
Paterson STEAM High School

After their Hispanic Heritage Month performance at STEAM, Bomba y Plena artists Nelson and Magda are now engaged in an Arts Residency with Spanish II and III students. Throughout this residency, the students are exploring the origins and history of Bomba y Plena and engaging hands-on with the traditions. They're learning to play the Cuá, maracas, and drums, and are also practicing authentic Plena dances, as well as singing Coro. This arts residency is a hands-on Arts Integration experience which is enriching students' understanding of Puerto Rican culture and heritage during Puerto Rican Heritage Month.

Spanish II and III teacher Michelle Clements is collaborating closely with World Art teacher Dr. Jaymie Stein, whose students are creating paper-maché maracas. World Music teacher Tristan Jones, along with Nelson, is guiding the students in playing the instruments and singing. Together, they are integrating three academic disciplines to provide a lively and collaborative Arts Integration experience bringing the A which stands for Arts, in STEAM alive. The culmination of this residency will be an all-student ensemble performance and *Batey*.



Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology / School 4



[See the photo album](#)

Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology recently hosted a vibrant Hispanic Heritage Celebration, showcasing the rich culture and creativity of its students. The event featured poetry readings about Hispanic identity and the significance of honoring names through proper pronunciation. Students also dazzled the audience of parents, peers and District administrators with lively dance performances of *Dembow*, *Bachata*, and *Bomba*, celebrating the rhythms of their heritage.

Special guest Rik Montero energized the crowd with his reggaeton hits, creating an unforgettable experience for students. Esteemed visitors such as Dr. Melissa Baralt, Dr. Laurie W. Newell, and Dr. Cicely Warren, joined parents and families in applauding the students' talents and creativity. The celebration highlighted the school's commitment to embracing diversity and fostering community pride.

School 20

School 20 had its Hispanic Heritage Assembly on November 15th in the auditorium. The assembly, organized and hosted by ESL teacher Ilmadeliz Monto, included ten performances by students ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. Many were exhibitions of traditional Latino dance styles, but there were also instrument demonstrations. There were two solo singing performances, one by 5th grader Nicole Dumeng and another by Ms. Monto, who was accompanied by onstage student musicians. The school also took the opportunity to introduce their drumline club, which is under the guidance of Instructional Aide Craig Redmond.



[See the photo album](#)

One Table Food Fest

Paterson Public Schools (PPS) hosted the One Table Food Fest on Tuesday, November 19th at Dr. Hani Awadallah School. Organized by the District's Executive Director of Food Services Krystal Tanner with SodexoMagic's Senior Operations Leader Keison Arnold as the master of ceremonies. The event had healthcare professionals, skin care specialists, barbers, confection vendors, PPS staff recruitment, and the Family and Community Engagement Department on hand to provide information to attendees.



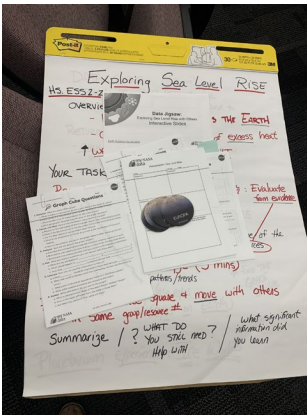
Before the festivities kicked off, SodexoMagic provided a donation of \$6,000 to the Family and Community Engagement Department's Community Center. Another donation of \$1,000 was given to the center by Stop Hunger.



[See the photo album](#)

EARTH AND SKY

Students at Paterson P-Tech High School Study The Earth From Space



P-TECH's students engaged with MyNASADData to analyze geoscientific data related to sea level rise. By examining global temperature changes, sea and land ice fluctuations, and sea levels over the past two decades, they formulated their own conclusions regarding the contributing factors to this pressing issue. The students utilized the data to support their claims and propose actionable solutions to mitigate sea level rise.

As a follow-up, students will participate in an immersive activity in the P-Tech Planetarium, where they will investigate the significance of ice on Earth and explore its presence throughout the solar system. The hands-on experience aims to deepen their understanding of the importance of ice in various contexts.

Solar Study

Paterson P-Tech students assembled a solar-viewing telescope to safely observe the sun and record their observations of what's visible on the solar surface. With solar maximum approaching, the sun is particularly active, providing an engaging backdrop for student exploration. Equipped with solar eclipse glasses, students compared their direct observations with what they saw through the telescope, adding new details to their science notes.

They also learned about NASA's Heliophysics Big Year, a national initiative celebrating the latest advancements in solar science and inspiring community engagement with our dynamic star. As part of the lesson, students discussed the scales of size and distance in space, making these cosmic concepts more relatable. The activity concluded with students crafting bracelets from UV-sensitive solar beads, which change color when exposed to sunlight.



DECA Training

Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts DECA members attended the state Chapter Officers Leadership Training Conference (COLT) on the campus of Kean University on October 17th. This is the 2nd year that the chapter has participated in the statewide leadership conference. Students were excited to begin this new competitive year by forging their leadership skills that will be needed to compete at the regional, state and hopefully, international conferences. Dr. Reggie Hall Sr., the chapter advisor, is excited to see the students gearing up for competition with high expectations of their performance.



HEALING PAWS

The students at School No. 2 had the opportunity to meet Blaze, a special guest who will be visiting the school on a monthly basis. Blaze is a therapy dog that is part of the Therapy Dog Visitation Program. The program started at School No. 21 three years ago, but has expanded to three other schools this year, making Dr. Hani Awadallah, School No. 2, and School No. 13 Grief Sensitive Schools; educators in these schools seek opportunities to support students who have experienced various forms of grief, loss, and separation.

Organized by Grade 2 teacher Erica Bernard of School No. 21, the program partners with organizations that provide volunteer therapy dog owner visitations. During visits, under the supervision of school staff, students can read a story, share drawings, talk about their emotions, share what is happening in school, or simply just enjoy one-on-one time with the therapy dog.



[See the photo album](#)

ALL POWER UP CONTEST WINNER AT INTERNATIONAL

Congratulations to Maria Lazo Valdez, grade 11, who is the third-place worldwide winner in the October round of Beable's Fall Power Up Contest.

The contest, which had 100,000 students nationwide, has been designed to motivate students to do their best work in Beable. Special attention was given to those who successfully level up their Lexile levels through Power Up Challenges. The more quality work your students complete in Beable, the higher they climb on the product leaderboard. The winners are chosen based on who earns the most points.

"Congratulations to all on this great accomplishment," said Customer Success Manager for Beable, Amelia West. "We realize it is the educators who drive the success of our Beable implementations. Thank you for your continued support!"

To learn more about Beable, [click here](#).

TOP SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY

Paterson Public Schools' School 28 has been ranked the Best Elementary School and Best Middle School in New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report. According to U.S. News, state assessment data largely determines how most elementary and middle schools are ranked. In the elementary school category, School 28 outperformed 2,347 other schools, while in the middle school category, it surpassed 1,434 schools.

For more information, [read the press release](#).

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Staff and students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex observed School Violence Prevention Week in late October by wearing orange.

School Violence Awareness Week is a week-long event in New Jersey that takes place annually during the week beginning with the third Monday in October. The week is a time for schools to come together to prevent violence and promote school safety.



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

The Staff at Renaissance One School of Humanities dressed up for Halloween as the characters of Alice in Wonderland. The students had a fantastic time participating in the planned activities and paraded for the school community.



Dr. Hani Awadallah's Vice Principal Daniel Krankel and students took part in the school's Trunk a Treat event. Students enjoyed various offerings within the school's parking lot.





GARDEN OF DELIGHTS

Renaissance One School of Humanities has now added an outdoor classroom to extend the science curriculum with hands on learning opportunities thanks to City Green's "Dig In" grant.

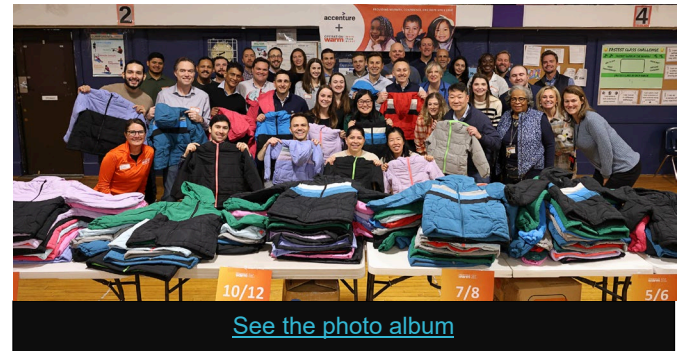
RED RIBBONS

During Red Ribbon Week, youth and adults around the nation pledge to increase their knowledge by learning more about the destructive effects of drug abuse, including prescription drug misuse, and renew their commitment to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Red Ribbon Week commemorates Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died in the line of duty while investigating cartels in Mexico.



WARM OFFERINGS

The students of School No. 7 have received brand new winter coats provided by Operation Warm and their partner, Accenture, which helped provide volunteers for the event. Operation Warm partners with organizations that buy the products they manufacture, such as coats, shoes, and other clothing. Then an in-person event is held to distribute the clothing to children that are represented by an organization or individual. School No. 7 was chosen because Special Education teacher Chris-Ann Forchette completed the Wish List form found on Operation Warm's website. Having started with her own class, Ms. Forchette then worked to expand the donation school-wide. All of the school's students, with a current enrollment of 250, have received coats.



Superintendent Laurie W. Newell said, "I'm so happy to see our students receive these coats and see that our partners in the community want to help. It's a very positive image for our families that may be in need of help with clothing, to know that their children will be kept warm on their way and coming from school. I want to thank the people of Operation Warm and Accenture, especially our School 7 staff."



Principal Pamela Powell said, "I want to thank Operation Warm and Accenture for coming to our school and donating these coats with such energy and love. Our kids enjoyed it, they were just ecstatic and excited. It's wonderful that they could come together with our school community to provide for the children of Paterson. It's when we can come together like this that America is at its best."

Operation Warm is a national nonprofit that manufactures brand-new, high-quality coats and shoes for donation to children in need. Accenture is a multinational company that specializes in information technology services and management consulting.



Media Coverage

Paterson Press

[Five vie for three open seats on Paterson school board. Only one is an incumbent](#)
[November 1, 2024](#)

Paterson Press

[Two candidates backed by mayor win Paterson school board seats](#)
[November 6, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson BOE Welcomes 2024-2025 High School Student Representatives](#)
[November 7, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Schools Launch Work-Based Learning Program in Partnership with Local Organizations](#)
[November 8, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Public Schools Partners with Stockton University for Dual Credit Program](#)
[November 14, 2024](#)

Paterson Press

[Paterson's largest high school, Eastside, gets new interim principal](#)
[November 15, 2024](#)

Aol

[Paterson's largest high school, Eastside, gets new interim principal](#)
[November 15, 2024](#)

MSN

[Paterson's largest high school, Eastside, gets new interim principal](#)
[November 15, 2024](#)

HEADLINES

Our district in the news

Media Coverage

Patch

[The Best Elementary Schools In NJ: See New U.S. News Rankings](#)
[November 15, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Andre and Cedenia McCollum Retire After 63 Combined Years of Service with Paterson Board of Education](#)
[November 16, 2024](#)

New Jersey Digest

[10 Top Elementary Schools in NJ, According to New Ranking](#)
[November 17, 2024](#)

Patch

[4 Bergen County Elementary Schools Named in Top 25 In NJ By US News](#)
[November 18, 2024](#)

Paterson Press

[Paterson schools paid Assemblyman Wimberly double the limit for unused vacation days](#)
[November 18, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson's School 28 Named No. 1 Elementary and Middle School in New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report](#)
[November 18, 2024](#)

Paterson Press

[A Paterson public middle school is ranked No. 1 in NJ by US News](#)
[November 19, 2024](#)

New Jersey Family

[These Are the 50 Best Middle Schools in NJ, According to US News & World Report](#)
[November 19, 2024](#)

NJ.com (NJ Advance Media)

[These are N.J.'s 25 best elementary schools, new ranking says](#)
[November 20, 2024](#)

HEADLINES

Our district in the news

Media Coverage

Yahoo.com

[These are the best NJ elementary schools, according to US News & World Report
November 20, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson School 21 Hosts Third Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway with Support from Dr. Lilisa
Mimms and PTO
November 21, 2024](#)

Patch.com

[These 5 Bergen County Middle Schools Were Ranked At The Top
November 21, 2024](#)

MSN.com

[These NJ Schools Topped Both US News, Niche Rankings: Here's Where They Stand
November 21, 2024](#)

New Jersey 101.5

[Do your kids go to one of these top middle schools in NJ?
November 22, 2024](#)

MSN.com

[These 5 Bergen County Middle Schools Were Ranked At The Top
November 24, 2024](#)

NJ Advance Media

[Paterson's School 28, Named the Best Elementary School in New Jersey
November 26, 2024](#)

ABC7NY

[Exemplary principal honored with key to city in Paterson, NJ
November 28, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Public Schools Partners with Connecticut Institute of Technology to Offer Engineering
Courses for High School Students
November 28, 2024](#)

HEADLINES

Our district in the news

Media Coverage

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Public Schools Partners with BergenPAC for Jazz Music Program
November 29, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Principal Nancy Castro Honored with Key to the City for Transformative Leadership
November 29, 2024](#)

TAPinto Paterson

[Paterson Public Schools After-School Basketball Program Scores Big Thanks to Taub
Foundation
November 30, 2024](#)

CBS News

[Paterson, N.J.'s annual Thanksgiving Classic football game officially turns 100
November 28, 2024](#)

ABC7NY

[Eastside and Kennedy High School celebrate Centennial Thanksgiving Classic football game
November 28, 2024](#)

NJ.com

[Cuevas' 4 TD's fuels Paterson Eastside comeback, past Kennedy in 100th game
November 28, 2024](#)

NorthJersey.com

[Eastside faces Kennedy in Paterson's 100th Thanksgiving rivalry game
November 28, 2024](#)

PIX11 News

[Eastside Ghosts win 100th match up against Kennedy in rainy matchup
November 28, 2024](#)

Paterson Press

[At Paterson's School 28 gifted program, once-scorned 'know-it-all' students thrive
December 2, 2024](#)

Important Dates

December 3	Report Card Parent Conferences 5:30-7:30pm (JAT, NRC, Grades 9-12)
December 5	Report Card Parent Conferences 5:30-7:30pm (Grades PreK-8)
December 6	1:00 Student Dismissal/Staff PD
December 17	Progress Reports (Grades PreK-12)
December 23- January 1	Winter Recess – District Closed



Board of Education Meeting

The December 4 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 December 11 Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely. It will also be live streamed at 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.

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.

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

FOLLOW PPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @PatersonPublicSchools

Twitter: @ PPS _ Comm

Instagram: Paterson _ Public _ Schools _ NJ

LinkedIn: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS