



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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School No. 21 Provides Support To Community Policing Unit

Photo captions below

The Passaic County Sheriff's Department's (PCSD) Community Policing Unit was welcomed at School No. 21 by Principal Riviello and her staff for a special luncheon on Thursday, February 29th. The event, organized by grade 2 Teacher Erica Bernard-Parker, was held as a show of support for the PCSD in the wake of the January 23rd passing of Richard H. Berdnik, the former sheriff of Passaic County.

As part of the luncheon, the attending deputies were also given a chance to enjoy the school's SWAG Room, a space for leisure and games meant to reward students that are academically high achieving or in need of social/emotional support, and met two therapy dogs from The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. One of the dogs, Lulu, visits the school biweekly as part of the school's grief-sensitive program, *Supporting Students Who Grieve: Easing Grief*, started by Ms. Bernard-Parker. Additionally, Grade 2 student Ramaj Smith read the book, "The Memory Box: A Book About Grief," for the deputies. At the close of the luncheon each of the officers received a grief pin that represents adult grief.

Sheriff's Department members remarked how it was more than they expected and how thankful they were for the support.

Principal Riviello told the officers that Sheriff Berdnik was always very supportive of School No. 21 community and that the school wanted to return that support to them.

Photo 01: Passaic County Sheriff's Department's Community Policing Unit members introduced themselves and shared a memory of Sheriff Richard H. Berdnik.

Photo 02: Passaic County Sheriff's Department's Community Policing Unit members enjoy food provided by the School No. 21 staff.

Photo 03: (L-R) PCSD Deputy Patterson pets Lulu, while talking with her owner, Robert D'Amico.

Photo 04: Grade 2 student Ramaj Smith read the book, "The Memory Box: A Book About Grief," for the deputies.