



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

NOVEMBER 2025 | VOL. 13

AHA RECOGNIZES CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY



Alexander Hamilton Academy students engaged in grief awareness activities on November 20th in honor of Children's Grief Awareness Day, a day that recognizes the many ways that students experience grief and the importance of supporting their emotional well-being.

Spearheaded by Alexander Hamilton Academy Social Studies teacher Ms. Erica Bernard-Parker, last Thursday marked the fourth consecutive year that Children's Grief Awareness Day has been recognized in the district. This year's program featured story time, a powerful bubble release at day's end, and a special visit from Lulu the therapy dog. Lulu is a part of Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs based in Morris Plains, NJ, which visits Alexander Hamilton Academy twice a month and has also done grief awareness work at School No. 2, School No. 13, School No. 21, and Dr. Hani Awadallah School.

The district's commitment to honoring this special day demonstrates its support for grief awareness initiatives, and creating a caring and compassionate school community.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

As we head into Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to thank our staff and students for everything you bring to Paterson Public Schools each day. Thanksgiving is a day centered on gratitude, reflection, and fostering togetherness with family and friends. With the hard work that everyone in our district has put in this past year, I hope that you all enjoy this special and meaningful holiday.

I especially wish this for the families that make up our school community. Your involvement in your children's education has a direct impact on the progress we have seen across the district. Your efforts certainly do not go unnoticed, and our district is grateful for your support and dedication.

As you celebrate the traditions that make this season special, I hope you find time to rest, recharge, and celebrate with your loved ones. Also, we invite everyone to the 101st annual Turkey Bowl between the John F. Kennedy High School Knights and the Eastside High School Ghosts at Hinchliffe Stadium on Thanksgiving Day at 11 AM. This event is not just a football game, it's a celebration that showcases our talented student-athletes and passionate fans.

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and healthy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LEADERS HOLD FIRST MEETING



Paterson Public Schools' Student Government Association (SGA) presidents and vice presidents assembled for its first meeting of the 2025-2026 academic year on November 20th at Central Office. Led by the students and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa España, the meeting was also attended by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, and advisors from the students' schools. The student leaders discussed key topics that came up at the latest Board of Education meeting, common issues at their schools, districtwide initiatives, and upcoming events.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP GATHERS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS



Paterson Public Schools' principals and vice principals recently convened at Central Office for their monthly meetings, with school principals gathering on November 21st and vice principals meeting on November 24th. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson lead the professional development meetings that continued school leadership's work in data literacy, the second goal listed in the district's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Additionally, Paterson P-Tech's Dr. Carlos Miranda presented to both principals and vice principals about the Paterson P-Tech Planetarium and how schools can best experience the facility.

EASTSIDE JROTC IMPRESSIVE IN COMPETITION, IN THE COMMUNITY



Eastside High School's Mighty Ghost JROTC Battalion had an amazing performance on November 22nd at its first Championship Drill competition of the year that took place at Union High School, placing within the Drill, Color Guard, Squad and Knockout categories. The cadets competed against 21 high-level JROTC programs within the tri-state area, winning five trophies and one individual achievement medal.

- 1st place unarmed color guard
- 1st place unarmed drill platoon
- 2nd place let 1 squad drill
- 3rd place armed academic inspection
- 3rd place open drill squad
- 5th place knockout (Cadet Genesis Cabrera)

The cadets also assisted at a community service event this past weekend, as they were instrumental in helping Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and Mantilla Services with the distribution of food and turkeys in support of over 300 low-resource families within the Paterson community.

TEACHER SPEAKS ON PANEL AT NATIONAL DONORSCHOOSE CONFERENCE

Mrs. Yudelis Nunez, an ESL teacher at Newcomers High School, represented her school and Paterson Public Schools on a teacher panel at the annual National DonorsChoose Conference held this year in Providence, RI.

Mrs. Nunez was one of only four educators chosen nationwide, representing teachers from multiple states. During the panel, Mrs. Nunez spoke about the needs, challenges, and success stories of district students and educators. She highlighted the importance of equitable access to resources and celebrated the meaningful impact that DonorsChoose projects have made in our classrooms.



WATCH THE LATEST EPISODES OF THE RECESS REPORT!

Students journalists at School No. 16 and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex interviewed their peers and teachers to cover important topics in their latest episodes of the Recess Report.

School No. 16's coverage offers important insight into suicide prevention and awareness. [Click here to view School No. 16's video.](#) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex (MLK) recognizes Red Ribbon Week and their school's efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal drugs. [Click here to watch MLK's video.](#)



RPHS STUDENTS SPOOK AUDIENCES WITH PRODUCTION OF MURDER AT WENTOWRTH

Students at Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts thrilled their audiences on November 21st when they successfully put on two performances of the play Murder at Wentworth.

Based on the book by Anthony Demeri, the play is a classic murder mystery that put audiences on the edge of their seats. Directed by Mr. Thomas Zemon, the students held a school-time performance at 10 AM before its community performance at 7 PM. [Click here to view of a recap video of the production.](#)



YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT PATERSON P-TECH

7th and 8th grade students from Young Men's Leadership Academy (YMLA) recently visited Paterson for an engaging tour designed to give the young learners a glimpse of what high school life is like.

During their visit, students met with Paterson P-Tech Principal Dr. Charla Holder and their future guidance counselor, Ms. Vernita Bostick. The tour continued to the second-floor media center, where students had the opportunity to meet Pedro Trinidad, Paterson P-Tech's Student Government Association Vice President. Pedro shared his experiences and insights, giving YMLA students a firsthand perspective on high school life from a student's point of view.

Finally, the group made their way to the third floor and concluded their visit in the P-Tech Planetarium, where Workplace Learning Coordinator Mr. Brandon Pilgrim, welcomed the students and shared information about course offerings and internship opportunities. This visit provided YMLA students with a comprehensive look at the academic, extracurricular, and career-oriented opportunities available at Paterson P-Tech, inspiring them as they prepare to make the transition to high school.



PPS IN THE NEWS

Eastside Girls Edge Paterson Charter 2-1 Behind Strong First-Half Surge

November 6, 2025

Paterson's JFK Girls' Basketball Team to Host Annual 'Holiday Hoop Fest'

November 13, 2025

Paterson Teacher Named 2025 New Jersey Exemplary Educator

November 19, 2025

101st Turkey Bowl: Kennedy and Eastside to Meet at Hinchliffe Stadium on Thanksgiving

November 22, 2025

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COMING UP NEXT WEEK

December 2Report Card Parent Conferences
Grades 9-12 (High Schools)
Dr. Hani Awadallah School
Joseph A. Taub School
New Roberto Clemente School

December 4Report Card Parent Conferences
Grades PreK-8

[Full 2025-2026 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd, at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so **in person** and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 10th, at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so **in person** and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply select your preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

The District Newsletter is a publication of the Department of Communications.

We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news.

Submit stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form.

This form can be found on our Communications page at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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