



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

DECEMBER 2025 | VOL. 14

JFK, EASTSIDE GATHER FOR SPORTSMANSHIP BRUNCH



Football players, cheerleaders, and staff members from John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School gathered at the JFK Educational Complex Library on November 25th for the annual Sportsmanship Brunch. The festive tradition took place ahead of the 101st football game between the Knights and the Ghosts on Thanksgiving Day.

Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell showed her support by attending the event and addressing the students about the fellowship of competition, and the pride of being a Patersonian. Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez, district administrators, John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School leadership, and community dignitaries were also in attendance to celebrate this yearly gathering.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Last week, I had the great pleasure of attending this year's Sportsmanship Brunch held at John F. Kennedy High School. It was wonderful to once again witness the camaraderie and sportsmanship between the teams from JFK and Eastside High School. One of the highlights of this year's festive event was when JFK Principal Joanne Riviello spotlighted multiple students in attendance whose academic and social experiences have been positively impacted by their involvement in extracurricular activities. These kinds of stories should inspire all of us to continue to encourage our students to become involved in extracurricular activities at their school.



Many students in our district have recently received well-deserved recognition that was achieved through their involvement in various after-school programs. Multiple student-athletes from John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside were honored for their performances on the field and on the court this past Fall. A select group of students from the decorated JFK cheerleading program represented their school and the district last week at the Varsity Spirit Spectacular at Walt Disney World. The experience, which is featured on page 5 of this week's newsletter, allowed the Knights the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation

These hard-working students have taken full advantage of the opportunities that have been offered to them at their schools, and I commend them for their teamwork, dedication, and work ethic. They bring a tremendous amount of pride to our district.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



MULTIPLE GHOSTS, KNIGHTS EARN FOOTBALL ALL-COUNTY HONORS

Paterson Public Schools had multiple football student-athletes named to this year's All-Passaic County teams, as voted on by the county's head coaches. The honorees from John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School concluded their terrific seasons last week with the 101st annual Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving Day at Hinchliffe Stadium.

Second Team All-Passaic County

David Gonzalez, Eastside High School
Cously Jean Pierre, John F. Kennedy High School
Kayson McKaskill, Eastside High School
Josiah Mickens, Eastside High School

Honorable Mention All-Passaic County

Nehemiah Boreland, Eastside High School
Joel Garcia, Eastside High School
Noel Pimentel, John F. Kennedy High School
Jordan Vasquez, John F. Kennedy High School



JFK, EASTSIDE VOLLEYBALL WELL REPRESENTED ON ALL-DIVISION SQUAD

Paterson Public Schools volleyball student-athletes from John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School have been selected to all-division teams following standout seasons. The All-Liberty Division teams are voted on by head coaches in the division.

First Team All-Liberty Division

Khori Muckle, Eastside High School
Kaori Sagastegu, John F. Kennedy High School

Second Team All-Liberty Division

Jordyn Cornich, Eastside High School
Naima Mercado, John F. Kennedy High School

Honorable Mention All-Liberty Division

Hadassah Boucher, Eastside High School
Benacir Lazo, John F. Kennedy High School
Surai Pleasant, Eastside High School
Mary Sanchez, John F. Kennedy High School



INTERNATIONAL HS, SCHOOL NO. 27 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RACE TO READ



Students from Ms. Jennifer Speer's class at International High School and Ms. Lauren Guarducci's class at School No. 27 recently won sets of ear buds as part of Learning Ally's Race to Read contest.

A program designed to ignite a love for reading and boost literacy nationwide, students were able to access dozens of books online, as well as human-read audiobooks using the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution. The students' active participation in the program that concluded on October 31st made them eligible to win new ear buds. Congratulations to these determined students on earning their well-deserved prizes!

STAFF REMINDERS

PPS STAFF ENCOURAGED TO USE NEW TAGLINE AND LOGOS

Paterson Public Schools staff are encouraged to begin using the district's new tagline – Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow – and updated logos immediately, and wherever appropriate.

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow captures the spirit and momentum of the district's newly refined Mission, Vision, and Core Values. Staff may access the updated logo files by using this link. If you have any questions, please contact the Communications Department at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us.



HUMAN RESOURCES TO HOLD VIRTUAL CERTIFIED TEACHER JOB FAIR

Paterson Public Schools' Department of Human Resources will host a Virtual Certified Teacher Job Fair on December 17th from 3:30 PM to 6 PM via the Radancy Virtual Job Fair Platform.

The fair is for prospective teachers that are certified by the New Jersey Department of Education, or have recently applied for certification and are waiting for it to be issued. The virtual job fair also serves as a great opportunity for staff to connect with potential candidates for their school or department. For information on job fairs and more, visit our website.



DECEMBER SELF-CARE CALENDAR!

December represents both endings and beginnings. As the year gently winds down, we're invited to turn inward — honoring what we've accomplished, acknowledge how we've grown, and consider the direction we wish to move toward next.

Are you content in your current season? Is there something calling for change? December gifts us a moment of renewal and reflection, offering permission to step away from what no longer supports us, and to make space for what brings calm, clarity, and peace.

This month can also be challenging for many, as seasonal depression or emotional heaviness may begin to settle in. We can ease these moments by leaning into intentional self-care, grounding routines, and daily gratitude!

Mantra for December:

I carry light and warmth within me, even on the darkest and coldest days.

[Click here to view your reflection for the month.](#)

DECEMBER 2025 SELF-CARE CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Set your self care goals for the month	2 Start a conversation with someone you don't know	3 Research a topic you know nothing about	4 Order takeout for dinner	5 Leave your gradebook at home	6 Go for a hike
7 Pack your lunch for the week	8 Tell someone how wonderful they are	9 Have a social media free day	10 Go to sleep early	11 Smile at someone new	12 Go for a run or walk after work	13 Spend the day watching your favorite TV show
14 Go to the movies by yourself	15 Treat yourself to breakfast	16 Buy yourself something new	17 Have some hot chocolate	18 Send a note of encouragement to someone who needs it	19 Cook yourself a fancy meal	20 Write your own holiday story
21 Volunteer with an organization you care about	22 Journal	23 Stay hydrated	24 Share positive self-talk with others	25 Enjoy a holiday treat	26 Spend time doing your favorite hobby	27 Plan a night out with friends
28 Go to brunch	29 Make an appointment for your yearly check ups	30 Notice what brought you stress and what brought you joy this year	31 Commit to learning a new skill for 2026			



DICIEMBRE 2025 CALENDARIO DE CUIDADOS PERSONALES						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Establece tus objetivos de autocuidado para el mes.	2 Inicia una conversación con alguien que no conoces.	3 Investiga un tema que desconozcas por completo.	4 Ordena comida para llevar para cenar.	5 Deja tu libro de calificaciones en casa.	6 Ir de caminata
7 Prepara tu almuerzo para la semana.	8 Dile a alguien lo maravillosa que son.	9 ¡Que tengas un día sin redes sociales!	10 Vete a dormir temprano	11 Sonríe a alguien nuevo	12 Sal a correr o caminar después del trabajo.	13 Pasa el día viendo tu programa favorito de televisión.
14 Ve al cine solo	15 Regálale un desayuno	16 Cómprate algo nuevo	17 Toma un poco de chocolate caliente.	18 Envía una nota de ánimo a alguien que lo necesite.	19 Prepárate una comida elegante.	20 Escribe tu propia historia de vacaciones.
21 Colabora como voluntario con una organización que te importa.	22 Diario	23 Mantente hidratado	24 Comparte pensamientos positivos sobre ti con los demás.	25 Disfrute de un regalo navideño.	26 Dedica tiempo a tu pasatiempo favorito.	27 Planear una noche con amistades.
28 Ir a almorzar	29 Pida cita para sus chequeos anuales.	30 Fíjate en lo que te causó estrés y lo que te trajo alegría este año.	31 Prometer a aprender una nueva habilidad para 2026.			

JFK CHEERLEADERS PERFORM AT DISNEY'S VARSITY SPIRIT SPECTACULAR



Four John F. Kennedy High School cheerleaders represented Paterson Public Schools and their award-winning squad at last week's Varsity Spirit Spectacular at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

JFK was one of more than 800 high schools from across the country that had cheerleaders and dancers participate in the event. The cheerleaders performed in the Christmas parade at Disney's Magic Kingdom Park before hundreds of spectators.

The experience allowed the Knights to have the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation, and celebrate the holiday season in the magical setting of Walt Disney World.

PARENT REMINDERS

HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS CLOSE DECEMBER 12TH

The application deadline is approaching for Paterson Public Schools' High School Choice program!

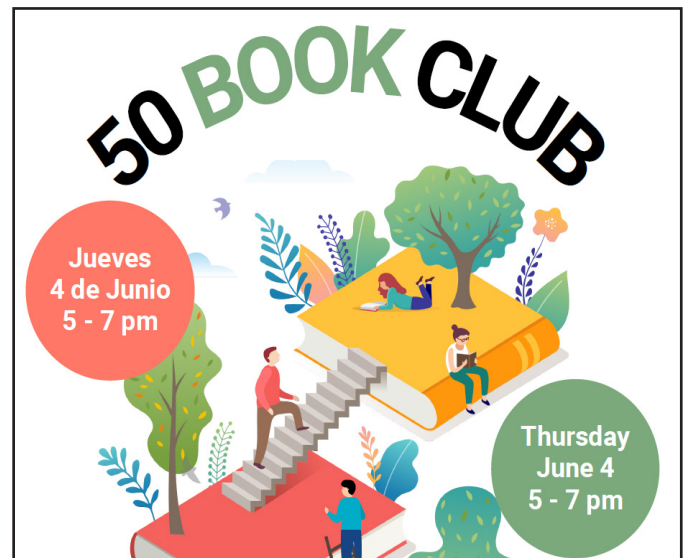
Families have until December 12th to submit their child's application for the High School Choice Program. Following the December 12th application deadline, teacher recommendations are due on January 9th. To access this year's application and for more information about the High School Choice Program, please visit our [website](#).



50 BOOK CLUB CELEBRATION IS SET FOR JUNE 4TH

The Paterson Education Fund, in partnership with Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson Free Public Library, is pleased to announce the celebration of The 50 Book Club for the 2025-2026 school year. Students who finish reading 50 books by the end of the year will be honored at the Paterson Free Public Library on Thursday, June 4th from 5 PM to 7 PM.

Encourage your young learner to start reading now so they can read 50 books by the end of the year!



COMING UP NEXT WEEK

December 12 1:00 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

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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