



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

DECEMBER 15, 2025 | VOL. 16

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

At last week's Board of Education meeting, we gave our fondest farewell to Board President Eddie Gonzalez, who participated in his final meeting following many years of dedication to the students, families, and staff of this district.

President Gonzalez's service to the district was deeply impactful and he played a key role in shaping Paterson Public Schools. His service was defined by steadiness and a commitment to what is best for the community. On behalf of our staff, our families, and especially our students, I want to thank President Gonzalez for his years of leadership, his guidance, and his heart for public education. We wish him the very best in all that comes next.

The Board of Education will next convene in the new year when it holds its Organization Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at International High School. I look forward to working with the Board in the year ahead as we continue to raise the level of expectation for student achievement in the district.

Celebrating the Holiday Season Districtwide

This time of year offers a special opportunity to reflect on the joy and community spirit found throughout our schools. With that in mind, please enjoy the [district's Holiday Showcase video](#), which highlights a series of activities and celebrations that took place in the district this season. We are immensely proud of the work happening in our schools every day, and this presentation is just a small glimpse into the positive learning environments our students experience. Additionally, this video showcases our festive and hard-working Central Office staff members who contribute so much to Paterson Public Schools on a daily basis.

I hope you enjoy the Winter Break, and you give yourself time to rest, recharge, and enjoy meaningful moments with your loved ones. Wishing you a peaceful and joyful holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson presented Board President Eddie Gonzalez with a plaque on December 10th.





CENTRAL OFFICE SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER!



BUSINESS SERVICES



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



**UNIT LEADERS
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS**



ACADEMIC SERVICES



SPECIAL SERVICES



HUMAN RESOURCES



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



CENTRAL REGISTRATION



MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS & ACCOUNTABILITY



SCHOOL SAFETY



STUDENT ATTENDANCE



TECHNOLOGY



ANNUAL DISTRICT K-8 STEAM EXPO HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT BRILLIANCE



Paterson Public Schools proudly showcased the creativity, critical thinking, and innovation of its K-8 students during the district's annual K-8 STEAM Expo that took place at William Paterson University on Wednesday, December 17. Presented by the Office of STEAM Education and sponsored by William Paterson University, the Expo once again showcased the district's commitment to providing interdisciplinary, project-based learning experiences that integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM).

"The projects presented by these students are proof of their immense talent, and the potential that exists within all Paterson Public Schools students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "We are grateful for our teachers, mentors, staff, and families whose guidance makes it possible for our students to achieve and thrive. Additionally, we thank our principals and school leaders for creating an environment where innovation blossoms, and every student feels empowered to learn and explore. Let us carry this energy forward as we continue to nurture creativity, curiosity, and the limitless potential in every child."

Click [here](#) to read the [press release](#).

SCHOOL NO. 10 HOSTS HEARTWARMING DADDY+ME CHILL AND PAINT EVENT



School No. 10 provided a fun and engaging opportunity for fathers and father figures of students to connect with their children at its Daddy+ME Chill and Paint event on December 11th. School No. 10 aimed to give fathers a space where they felt recognized, valued, and seen, strengthening their role in their child's academic and social development in a creative setting.

The event aligned with Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) pillars of fostering strong family engagement, promoting positive relationships, and supporting student success through active parental involvement. Creating opportunities for fathers to participate not only benefits the students, but it also builds a stronger, more connected school community.



PARENT REMINDER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

REMINDER

Season's Greetings!

Paterson Public Schools will be closed for Winter Recess

December 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026
District reopens January 5, 2026

www.paterson.k12.nj.us

INTERNATIONAL HS COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED

International High School recently demonstrated what it means to show up for one another, as generous donations from dedicated staff members, and support from the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) program, gave the school enough food to prepare and deliver Thanksgiving food boxes to families experiencing hardship.



JFK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PLACES FIRST IN BEABLE LITERACY CONTEST



John F. Kennedy High School student Nazifa C. earned first place honors in the November round of the Beable Fall Power Up Contest.

Nazifa competed against a field of more than 100,000 students nationwide to earn this prestigious award. In recognition of her achievement, she received a certificate, a gift card, a trophy, and a letter of commendation from the Beable team.

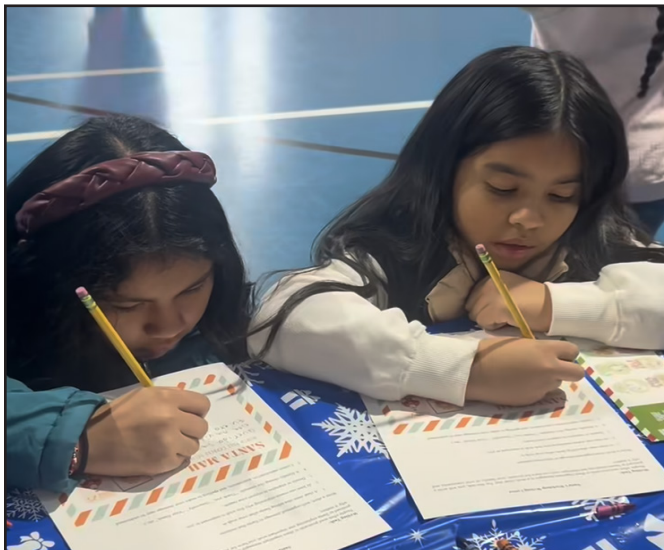
The annual competition, created by the Beable Career-Connected Literacy Platform, is designed to motivate students to maximize their academic performance, with particular emphasis on those who successfully improve their Lexile levels through the platform's Power Up Challenges. Winners are selected based on the highest total number of points accumulated.

Congratulations to Nazifa and her dedicated English teacher, Mrs. Gulen Balci, on this outstanding accomplishment.



MARÍA MAGDA O'KEEFE SCHOOL HOSTS HOLIDAY LITERACY EVENT

Students, parents, and guardians from María Magda O'Keefe School came together on Monday morning for the school's first holiday-themed literacy event. Families enjoyed breakfast, story time with Santa Claus, and hands-on literacy activities that built skills in reading, writing, and identifying parts of speech.



CHARLES J. RILEY SCHOOL/SCHOOL NO. 9 STUDENTS INSPIRED BY VISIT FROM POET

Students from Charles J. Riley School/School No. 9 recently welcomed poet and author Felicia Sherelle, who shared her passion for poetry and guided the young writers through the writing process. The discussion and poetry writing workshop sparked the students' creativity and it encouraged them to find their own voices.



PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson Schools Expand Robotics, Drone and eSports Programs with Districtwide Rollout

December 11, 2025

Paterson Teachers to Participate in Graduate Research Study on World Language Instruction

December 15, 2025

Paterson Students to Gain Expanded Arts Opportunities Through New Partnerships at Rosa L. Parks School

December 17, 2025

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COMING UP NEXT WEEK

December 23 1 PM Student/1:20 PM Staff Dismissal
December 24-31 Winter Recess - District Closed

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Organization Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 at International High School. 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

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications
Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications
Aidan Solano | Graphics & Content Coordinator
Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant

