



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

JANUARY 9, 2026 | VOL. 18

NEW LEADERSHIP: INTRODUCING OUR 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION



The Paterson Public Schools Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Commissioner Joel D. Ramiré as President of the Board of Education and Commissioner Della McCall as Vice President of the Board following its annual Organization Meeting on January 7, 2026. Commissioner Ramiré succeeds former President Eddie Gonzalez, who departs after serving as Board President in 2025. In addition to the leadership appointments, the Board welcomed newly-elected Commissioner Alex Mendez Jr., who will serve a three-year term.

To read the press release, please visit our [website](#).

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Welcome back! I hope you found time to unwind and cherish meaningful moments with family and loved ones over the holidays. As we begin this new chapter of the school year, I am hopeful that 2026 will be a year of personal growth and achievement for every student.

January ushers in a renewed sense of possibility. Our students return with fresh curiosity, our staff with new ideas and energy, and our families with their support. Together, we step into the next part of the school year with our shared purpose: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow. This guiding belief continues to shape our district's work. To learn more about our direction and priorities, please visit our website to view the [2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

On January 7, we were pleased to welcome our [2026 Board of Education](#) and newly elected leadership during our Organization Meeting at International High School. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas these dedicated public servants bring as we work together to ensure every student succeeds.



Update on the Non-Continuation of Full-Service Community Schools Grant

On December 16, Paterson Public Schools was notified by the U.S. Department of Education that the District's Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grant will not be continued beyond the current funding period. After reviewing the notice, assessing the impact of the decision, and seeking additional clarification, the district filed an appeal. Unfortunately, on December 29, the U.S. Department of Education denied our request for reconsideration.

While this decision presents challenges, our commitment to supporting every student and removing barriers to learning remains at the heart of our work. We will continue working with our partners and elected officials to advocate for the resources our students deserve.

Championing academic success, fostering student well-being, and strengthening the community partnerships that make our district so unique remains steadfast in our focus. I am profoundly grateful for our dedicated staff, our inspired students, and the continued partnership of our families. I look forward to another year of growing together and making a lasting impact in our schools.

Best wishes for a productive and successful 2026!

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



Board of Education President Joel D. Ramirez and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell will work to continue the progress that has been made in Paterson Public Schools.

LOCAL PARTNER DONATES LAPTOPS TO JFK, EASTSIDE STUDENTS



A select group of senior students from John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School received new laptops courtesy of the law office of Scura, Wigfield, Heyer, Stevens & Cammarota, and the non-profit Educate Elevate Empower (E3).

“We wanted to make sure that these star students have the right tools, such as these laptops, in their hands as they move forward in their professional and academic journeys,” said senior partner John J. Scura III. “You are all leaders because you were picked by the administration to receive this gift. We hope that you use these laptops to educate yourself and inspire you to help others.”

The students were presented the laptops by Mr. Scura. The event was supported by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa España, Deputy Director of Accelerated & Innovative Programs Rita Routé, JFK High School Principal Joanne Riviello, Eastside High School Principal Dorothy Dougé, and school staff.

YES PROGRAM STUDENTS EXPLORE AND LEARN ABOUT 1976 FORD RACE CAR



Paterson Public Schools' Youth Empowered Stewardship (YES) Program, led by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren and Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Cozart, gathered on January 7 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex to explore and learn more about their work on a 1976 Ford Capri replica race car.

Guided by Dr. David Byer-Tyre, an instructor from non-profit organization Mentor Newark, the project allowed YES students to design and promote a replica car with the approach to learning engineering, history, marketing, art, and American popular culture.

"Ultimately, the goal of this race car was to build a work of art that allows the students to integrate their voice and education into it," said Dr. Byer-Tyre. "The car allows us to see our young people's genius."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell addressed the eager young learners, who were overjoyed to see their hard work come to life. The students also took time out during the day to participate in mindfulness exercises that have become a staple of the YES Program.

JANUARY SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Happy New Year, and hello January 2026!

"Within every ending lives the seed of a fresh beginning."

January opens the door to a new year – and with it comes the opportunity for a fresh start, reflection, and renewal. Across our district, each of us plays a vital role in supporting students, families, and one another. As we step into 2026, this is a moment to pause and consider what we need in order to continue showing up with purpose and care.

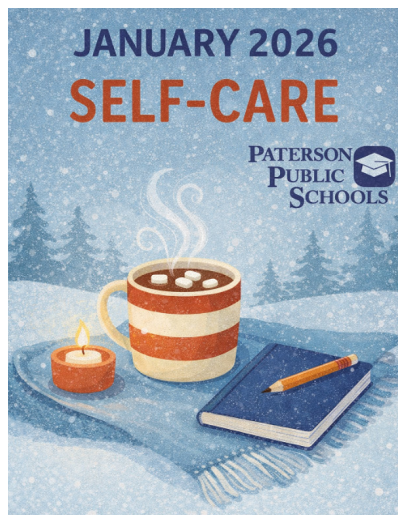
New beginnings don't have to mean drastic change. They can be as simple as setting a healthy boundary, rediscovering balance, learning something new, or letting go of what no longer serves our well-being. Whether your role places you in classrooms, offices, hallways, or behind the scenes, your work matters and so does your health, energy, and peace.











This year, let self-care be a part of the foundation that supports your goals. By tending to ourselves along the way, we strengthen not only our own resilience, but the entire school community we serve.











Mantra for January:

I enter this new year supported, purposeful, and committed to caring for myself.

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



 <h2 style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2026</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">SELF-CARE CALENDAR</p> 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Create a list of goals for this year	2 Start a new book 	3 Journal or reflect on the past year
4 Learn a new skill	5 Write down a few things that bring you peace	6 Try out a yoga pose 	7 Do a thing you loved as a kid	8 Go on a walk with friends 	9 Remind yourself that you are loved and worthy	10 Have a dance party 
11 Love on and appreciate your body	12 Give someone a pep talk	13 Thank somebody you look up to	14 Check in with your stress level	15 Make a get well kit for sick days	16 Check your mindset more than your phone	17 Create a vision board
18 Watch a funny movie 	19 Start with a positive affirmation like "today will be great"	20 Make some hot tea 	21 Set a positive intention for the day	22 Make a new friend with someone	23 Empty your mind from the negativity of the week	24 Take a little cat nap 
25 Use towels right out of the dryer	26 Remember to ask for help when you need it	27 Make a new playlist	28 Do something that makes you smile	29 Take a long shower or bath	30 Bake cookies 	31 Give someone you love a hug

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">ENERO 2026</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">CALENDARIO DE CUIDADOS PERSONALES</p> 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Crea una lista de objetivos para este año.	2 Empieza un nuevo libro. 	3 Escribe en un diario o reflexiona sobre el año pasado.
4 Aprende una nueva habilidad	5 Anota algunas cosas que te traiga paz.	6 Prueba una postura de yoga. 	7 Haz una cosa que amabas desde chico	8 Ir de paseo con amigos. 	9 Recuérdete a ti mismo que eres amado y valioso.	10 Organiza una fiesta de baile. 
11 Ama y valora tu cuerpo.	12 Darle ánimos a alguien	13 Agradece a alguien a quien admires.	14 Evalúa tu nivel de estrés.	15 Prepara un kit de recuperación para los días de enfermedad.	16 Revisa tu estado de ánimo más que tu teléfono.	17 Crea un tablero de visión
18 Vea una película divertida 	19 Comienza con una afirmación positiva como "hoy será un gran día".	20 Prepara un poco de té caliente. 	21 Establece una intención positiva para el día.	22 Haz un nuevo amigo con alguien.	23 Libera tu mente de la negatividad de la semana.	24 Echa una pequeña siesta. 
25 Utiliza las toallas recién sacadas de la secadora.	26 Recuerda pedir ayuda cuando la necesites.	27 Crear una nueva lista de reproducción.	28 Haz algo que te haga sonreír.	29 Tómate una ducha o un baño largo.	30 Hornear galletas 	31 Dale un abrazo a alguien quien tu quieras.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' 2026 WELLNESS PROGRAM IS HERE!



GOOD HEALTH & GOOD LIFE

Paterson Public Schools' 2026 wellness program is designed to support the wellbeing of its staff with simple and rewarding opportunities to learn, move, and care for their health. The program also gives staff the chance to earn a \$250 incentive along the way.

Paterson employees and spouses enrolled in the Paterson medical plan can each earn a \$250 incentive by reaching 800 points during the program year. Points can be earned between January 1 and December 31, 2026 in a variety of ways, including scheduling preventative exams and vaccine appointments, taking a beBetter health survey, and taking a beBetter webinar. Incentives earned in 2026 will be paid via payroll direct deposit by March 2027

Log in at bebetterhealth.net to track your progress and explore opportunities.



HAPPY THREE KINGS DAY!

Happy Three Kings Day! January 6th marks the celebration of Three Kings Day—a cherished tradition that is celebrated with gift-giving and festive gatherings. Happy Three Kings Day to our students and staff who celebrate!

HAPPY THREE KINGS DAY



NRC STUDENTS DAZZLE IN WINTER TALENT SHOWCASE

New Roberto Clemente School's music department, in partnership with the Full-Service Community Schools team, hosted a Winter Talent Showcase that truly captured the spirit of school pride and togetherness. Students in grades 6–8 confidently took the stage to share their singing, dancing, and unique talents, filling the school with joy and energy.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT THE P-TECH PLANETARIUM



The Paterson P-Tech Planetarium hosted two impactful professional development experiences that showcased the space as a powerful resource for both instructional growth, and staff well-being.

John F. Kennedy High School special education teachers, led by Ms. Tammie Harrell-Simmons, took part in a professional development session that focused on self-care and stress management, and concluded with a calming Sunset Meditation experience under the dome. Additionally, District STEAM leaders participated in a collaborative session exploring how the planetarium can support inquiry-based learning, leverage hands-on displays and artifacts, and extend learning experiences before and after student visits.



INTERNATIONAL HS STUDENT WINS STATEWIDE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

International High School student Nasir A. was recently named the 2025 Youth Leadership Award recipient by the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association (NJCTA).

Nasir was selected from a highly competitive pool of students representing high schools across New Jersey. The Youth Leadership Award honors an outstanding high school student who demonstrates exceptional leadership in promoting Chinese language and culture. One of the key criteria for this award was a minimum of two years of Chinese language study at the high school level, a requirement that Nasir has met and exceeded through both academic and service achievements.

Since his freshman year, Nasir has taken on a major leadership role as the Dragon Dance Team leader of the International Club at International High School. Along with fellow team members, he has led the Dragon Dance Team in multiple community performances and service events, sharing Chinese culture with diverse audiences. These performances have taken place at Rutgers University, Fort Lee High School, Englewood Public Schools, as well as during school open houses, Back-to-School Nights, and other community celebrations.



BUILDING HEALTH, HOPE, AND COMMUNITY AT SCHOOL NO. 16



School No. 16's 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Event marked a meaningful milestone in its ongoing commitment to health education, prevention, and community building.

Families gathered for an inspiring and informative experience that provided critical health information, access to life-saving prevention resources, and opportunities for open conversation and learning. More than an event, it was a space where families felt empowered, supported, and connected — reinforcing the importance of education as a tool for wellness and prevention. The gathering was made possible through the collaboration of community partners, vendors, and local organizations who generously shared their expertise and resources.

NEWCOMERS HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES CULTURE AND CREATIVITY



Newcomers High School celebrated the holiday season with creativity, culture, and community. The students, who are all multilingual learners, showcased their talents in a lively talent show and spread cheer through "Parrandas Navidenas", a Latin tradition of holiday caroling. Classrooms were filled with encouragement as students created Positivity Trees, sharing kind messages and affirmations with one another. Students also practiced sequencing skills by writing out step-by-step processes for building marshmallow snowmen, combining learning with festive fun. It was a joyful season of learning and celebration for everyone involved.



SCHOOL NO. 2 COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

School No. 2 proudly hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa, a beloved tradition that continues to bring joy to the entire school community. Students enjoyed a delicious breakfast, special moments taking photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the simple magic of being surrounded by care and celebration.



SMART CLOSET OPENS AT MLK EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex is pleased to unveil a SMART Closet for students and families in its school community. The SMART Closet serves as an invaluable resource center that provides hygiene products, clothing, hats, gloves, scarves, and winter coats. Additionally, it provides food and other local, county, and state resources to support individuals during times of economic hardship. School leadership partnered with Johnson & Johnson and other companies to provide many of the products.



PARENT REMINDERS

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration for the Adult High School February semester at Paterson Adult & Continuing Education (PACE) is now open. Those wishing to register must do so in person at PACE, located at 151 Ellison Street in Paterson, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Please click [here](#) to access the PACE Adult High School referral form.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION AVAILABLE STARTING JANUARY 2026

Preschool registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin on January 12, 2026. Preschool is free for children that reside in Paterson and will be 3 years old on or before October 31, 2026.

For more information or to make an appointment, please call 973-321-0674. Appointments can only be scheduled over the phone.



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

**FREE PRESCHOOL
FOR PATERSON RESIDENTS**

If your child will be 3 years old on or before October 31, 2026 and you live in Paterson, it's time to register for the 2026-2027 school year.

Call **973-321-0674** beginning January 12, 2026 to register!

APPOINTMENTS MAY ONLY BE MADE BY PHONE.

PPS IN THE NEWS

Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill in Attendance as Paterson Board of Education Reorganizes for 2026

January 8, 2026

Eastside Boys Basketball Pulls Away to Top Clifton

January 7, 2026

Eastside Girls Basketball Team Dominates Clifton

January 7, 2026

Eastside Edges Demarest in Tight 53-50 Victory

January 2, 2026

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MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

January 16. 1 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD
January 19. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - District Closed
January 30. 2nd Marking Period Ends

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, 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 take place virtually on Wednesday, February 11th. Those wishing to provide public comments 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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