



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

JANUARY 15, 2026 | VOL. 19

Celebrating MUSLIM AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

We recognize the many contributions of Muslim Americans. recognize the many contributions of Muslim Americans.



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Join Paterson Public Schools in celebrating Muslim American Heritage Month.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Paterson is proudly one of the most diverse and culturally rich communities in the United States. A core part of our district's vision is to bring the city's vibrancy into our inclusive school communities, where empowered students are taught to understand, respect, and appreciate people from all backgrounds.

This month, we proudly honor and celebrate Muslim American Heritage Month. This observance provides an opportunity for students to explore the diverse traditions and history of the Muslim community. In January, Paterson Public Schools recognizes the profound national and global contributions Muslims have made across generations. We are especially proud to highlight our Muslim students and staff, whose enduring contributions and impact are felt every day in our district.

By recognizing Muslim American history and diverse experiences, we strengthen our commitment to creating compassionate and inclusive school communities. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our vibrant community, and for your shared dedication to inclusivity and respect for all. Happy Muslim American Heritage Month!

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



CHARLES J. RILEY SCHOOL/SCHOOL NO. 9 CELEBRATES MUSLIM AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Muslim American Heritage Month celebrations are underway across the district!

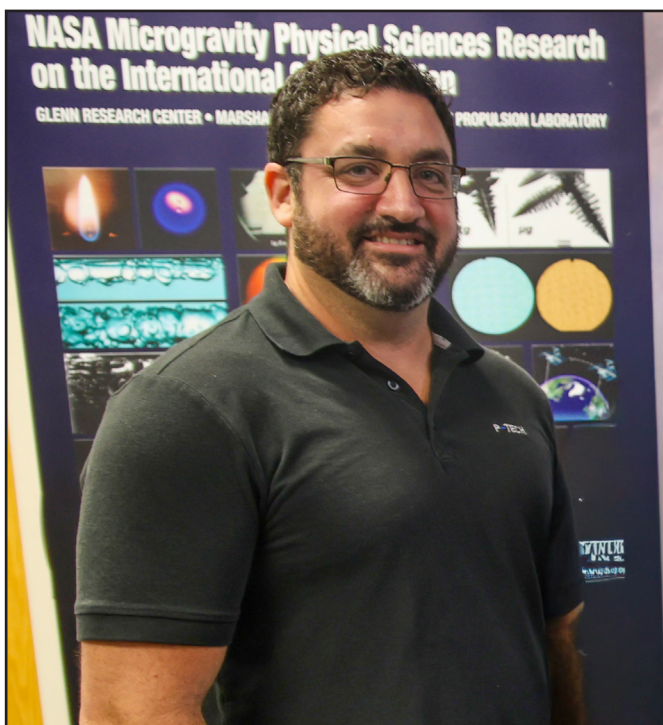
Charles J. Riley School/School No. 9 students from Mrs. Obeidallah's 3rd grade and Ms. Alfaouri's 2nd grade Arabic Bilingual classes recently took time out to learn about the Five Pillars of Islam. Through engaging discussions and activities, students explored the core beliefs and practices of Islam, helping them build understanding, respect, and appreciate for Muslim traditions and values.

LIBERTY SUBARU GIFTS NEW COATS TO SCHOOL NO. 2 STUDENTS



Nearly 500 students at Paterson's School No. 2 are prepared for winter as they received brand-new coats, courtesy of Liberty Subaru and Operation Warm, at a special gifting event hosted by School No. 2 on January 15. The coats were distributed to all students from kindergarten through 4th grade and 16 special education classes by representatives from Liberty Subaru.

"We were thrilled and grateful to host this impactful event at School No. 2," said School No. 2 Principal Dr. Vanessa Serrano. "Thanks to the generosity of Liberty Subaru and Operation Warm, our students are receiving an essential item that will keep them warm, cared for, and ready to learn. It's heartwarming to see our community come together to support and take care of our children."



PATERSON P-TECH TEACHER NAMED I CAN STEM NEW JERSEY ROLE MODEL

The New Jersey STEM Pathways Network (NJSPN) announced that Paterson P-Tech teacher Carlos Miranda, Ed.D has been named its I CAN STEM New Jersey STEM Role Model for the month of January.

Dr. Miranda is the Planetarium Manager for the Paterson P-Tech Planetarium where he leads innovative, equity-centered STEM programming rooted in student agency and leadership. His work prioritizes empowering students not only as learners but also as leaders, providing them with opportunities to design, facilitate, and lead outreach initiatives that serve their schools and the broader community.

Through I CAN STEM, the NJSPN aims to increase the diversity of New Jersey's STEM workforce and academic pipelines. I CAN STEM highlights diverse STEM role models so that all students will be able to see themselves participating and succeeding in STEM courses and careers.

EASTSIDE SENIORS PARTICIPATE IN WINTER 4 KIDS PROGRAM

Eastside High School seniors participated in their first of three snowboard and skiing sessions last week with Winter 4 Kids, a non-profit organization based in Vernon, NJ whose mission centers on access and equity in outdoor sports and learning. The instructors were highly complimentary of the students, praising their attentiveness, willingness to follow directions, and genuine enthusiasm for learning new skills.



PATERSON P-TECH STUDENTS VISIT YOGI BERRA MUSEUM

Students from Paterson P-Tech enjoyed an engaging field trip to the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center in Little Falls, NJ, where they explored exhibits highlighting teamwork, leadership, and the cultural impact of sports. The students participated in interactive experiences that connected history and real-world learning beyond the classroom.



REGISTERED DIETICIAN VISITS CHARLES J. RILEY SCHOOL/SCHOOL NO. 9

Charles J. Riley School/School No. 9 recently welcomed registered dietician Aya Mustafa to speak to its students. The engaging conversation with Ms. Mustafa featured important tips about healthy habits, balanced meals, and making smart food choices to support their growing minds and bodies.



EASTSIDE'S CHAMBERS NAMED BIG NORTH CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Eastside High School senior guard Alexis Chambers was named Big North Conference Girls Basketball Player of the Week after averaging 17.6 points and 7.0 rebounds in three games last week for the Lady Ghosts. Chambers' strong week was highlighted by a 27-point and 11-rebound performance against John F. Kennedy High School.



PPS IN THE NEWS

Paterson K-8 Students Display Winning Projects at Annual STEAM Expo

January 15, 2026

Paterson Students Showcase Replica Race Car Through YES Program

January 14, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Paterson Public Schools' YES Program Brings Student-Created Race Car Project to Life

January 13, 2026

STAFF REMINDER



IN-PERSON CERTIFIED TEACHER JOB FAIR SET FOR FEBRUARY 5

Paterson Public Schools' Human Resources Department will be hosting an In-Person Certified Teacher Job Fair on Thursday, February 5 from 4 PM to 7 PM in the Central Office cafeteria. If staff members have questions regarding the event, please feel free to reach out to Human Resources' recruitment team:

Jessica Scafe, jscafe@paterson.k12.nj.us
Sheilee Chocolatl, schocolatl@paterson.k12.nj.us

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

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