



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

MARCH 6, 2026 | VOL. 26

PATERSON STUDENTS CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



Paterson Public Schools celebrated Read Across America Week with students diving into new book adventures and sharing their favorite tales! From the district's youngest learners to its high school scholars, Paterson Public Schools is a community of readers. During the week, classrooms across the district were buzzing with reading and literacy activities that allowed students to express themselves and encouraged the development of consistent reading habits. By fostering a districtwide culture of literacy, we are equipping our students with the essential skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

SCHOOL 2 BRINGS LITERACY TO LIFE FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell made a special visit to School 2 for a fun and engaging Read Across America Week event. Dr. Newell read aloud "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" to the students and passed out copies so they could read along. This was one of many Read Across America events that took place at schools across the district this past week.



CHARLES J. RILEY SCHOOL/SCHOOL 9 HONORS READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Charles J. Riley School/School 9 brought stories to life this week as it celebrated Read Across America Week. To honor the joy of literacy, the school's hallways were transformed into a living library as students and staff dressed as their favorite book characters.



MARÍA MAGDA O'KEEFE SCHOOL HAS FUN-FILLED READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

María Magda O'Keefe School packed its Read Across America Week celebrations with fun activities centered around reading and literacy. The week was highlighted by Tuesday's pajama day, where students wore their favorite PJs, grabbed a book, and enjoyed a day that was filled with reading.



DR. NEWELL VISITS YMCA FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK EVENT

In commemoration of Read Across America Week, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell participated in a special event at the local YMCA, where she spent time reading to the children and celebrating the joy of reading. Dr. Janice Samuel-Powell, Director and Principal of the YMCA, invited Dr. Newell to join the festivities by reading to the children.



Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, I want to take a moment to share how Paterson Public Schools is planning responsibly and thoughtfully for the future.

Like many school districts across New Jersey and the nation, we continue to navigate a changing financial landscape driven by the depletion of federal pandemic-era funds, declining enrollment, and rising operational costs. Earlier this year, our community was made aware of the loss of the Full-Service Community Schools grants - funding that supported important wraparound services for students and families. While we are grateful for the impact of those programs, this loss of federal funding and other fiscal pressures require careful planning.



Ms. June Gray, Business Administrator, presented an overview of the district's budget planning work for the 2026–2027 school year at the Board of Education meeting on February 11, 2026. Key points from her presentation include:

- The district is entering the 2026–2027 budget cycle with very limited resources, relying heavily on state aid (unknown until March) and uncertain federal and local funds.
- We are approaching a fiscal cliff due to the loss of one-time revenue sources, including COVID-era funds and excess surplus, which totaled approximately \$38 million.
- The unreserved fund balance is below the recommended level (\$12.3M actual vs. \$15.5M recommended), limiting flexibility for next year's budget.
- Without these one-time funds, the district must rely on recurring revenues, which are not keeping pace with rising costs (e.g., healthcare costs, cost of living increases).
- Planning may require tax adjustments, program changes, or other measures to maintain a balanced budget.

We are taking a thoughtful, districtwide approach to ensure long-term financial stability while protecting what matters most: the work happening in our classrooms and the well-being of our students. Over the coming months, our leadership team will continue to review operations, align resources, and make responsible decisions with a long-term lens. This planning is happening now so that our schools can enter the 2026–2027 school year prepared, focused, and positioned to continue serving our students well. As always, our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and shared responsibility guides this work. We will continue to share updates as this work continues.

I remain confident in the strength of our district and grateful for the dedication of our educators, staff, families, and community. Together, we will continue to move forward – responsibly and always with our students at the center of every decision we make.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

MARCH SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Hello March 2026!

"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today."

March arrives with a quiet promise: that change is unfolding, even when we can't yet see it in full bloom. As daylight stretches a little longer and signs of spring begin to appear, we are reminded that growth often starts beneath the surface.

This month invites us to gently reawaken parts of ourselves that may have felt dormant during the winter season. It's a time to check in, refresh our intentions, and nourish the goals that still feel meaningful. Growth does not require urgency – it requires patience, care, and trust in the process.










Mantra for March:



I am emerging, evolving and becoming. I give myself permission to grow at my own pace.

Just as dirt slowly softens before it blossoms, we too can give ourselves permission to evolve at our own pace.

Let March be a season of steady renewal, hopeful energy, and intentional self-care!



March 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Set your self-care goals	2 Track your positive thoughts this week	3 Read a magazine for pleasure	4 Practice yoga 	5 Be intentional about your self-talk	6 Repeat the mantra, "I am strong"	7 Do something that makes you feel strong
8 Spend the morning meditating on what you need 	9 Read your favorite book 	10 Call a long distance family member	11 Meditate for 30 minutes	12 Make a playlist of inspirational music	13 Set goals for the weekend	14 Take a long shower or bath 
15 Sleep in late 	16 Purchase a cup of coffee for a coworker	17 Spend time helping someone else	18 Improve productivity 	19 Research a topic you have interest in	20 Host a game night with friends 	21 Spend the day reconnecting with an old friend
22 Pack lunch for the week	23 Leave work on time 	24 Write in your gratitude journal	25 Social media free day	26 Watch a comedy special	27 Evaluate your self-care goals	28 Go for a hike 
29 Walk for 30 minutes	30 Read a book for pleasure	31 Create a vision board for next month	This information is provided to you by: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Department of Student Support Services SAC and Social Emotional Learning 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07603 Office: (973) 321-0694 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us			

Marzo 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Establece tus objetivos de autocuidado	2 Sigue tus pensamientos positivos esta semana	3 Leer una revista por placer	4 practica yoga 	5 Sé intencional con tu diálogo interno	6 Repite el mantra: "Soy fuerte"	7 Haz algo que te haga sentir fuerte
8 Pasa la mañana meditando sobre lo que necesitas. 	9 Lee tu libro favorito 	10 Llamar a un familiar que esté a larga distancia	11 Medita durante 30 minutos	12 Crea una lista de escuchar música inspiradora	13 Establezca metas para el fin de semana	14 Tome una ducha o un baño largo 
15 Dormir hasta tarde 	16 Compra una taza de café para una compañera de trabajo	17 Dedica tiempo a ayudar a otra persona	18 Mejorar la productividad 	19 Investiga un tema que te interese	20 Organizar una noche de juegos con amigas 	21 Pasa el día reconectándose con un viejo amigo.
22 Almuerzo para llevar para la semana	23 salir del trabajo a tiempo 	24 Escribe en tu diario de gratitud	25 Día libre de redes sociales	26 Ver un especial de comedia	27 Evalúa tus objetivos de autocuidado	28 Ir de caminata 
29 Caminar durante 30 minutos	30 Leer un libro por placer	31 Crea un tablero de visión para el próximo mes	This information is provided to you by: PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Department of Student Support Services SAC and Social Emotional Learning 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07603 Office: (973) 321-0694 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us			

BLACK HISTORY MONTH VIDEO PRESENTED AT BOARD OF ED MEETING

Paterson Public Schools proudly presented its Black History Month video at the Board of Education Workshop Meeting on March 4. Produced by the Communications Department, the video provided a glimpse at the activities and presentations that took place throughout the month of February across the district.



STAFF REMINDER

REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL JOB FAIR

The Virtual Certified Teacher Job Fair for Special Education and Bilingual vacancies offers an excellent opportunity for administrators to connect with certified candidates for their school or department. The virtual job fair will take place on March 17 from 3:30 PM to 6 PM. Registration is required to attend and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL JOB FAIR

Now Hiring: Certified Bilingual Teachers, Special Education Teachers, and CST Professionals!

- Competitive salary
- Tuition reimbursement
- Generous benefits package

SCHOOLS SUPPORTING SCHOOLS: THE SMART CLOSET LENDS A HAND

The Smart Closet at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex recently extended a helping hand to support the students of Dr. Hani Awadallah School. Recognizing a need, guidance counselors Ms. Hanan Elherawi and Mr. Alvaro Chaljub reached out to MLK's Mr. Alvin Bush for essential hygiene supplies, including toothpaste and toothbrushes. Mr. Bush was quick to open the closet doors, ensuring the counselors could fully stock up on everything their students required. This collaboration serves as a beautiful reminder of the power of the Paterson community supporting its own.



PARENT REMINDER

RE-REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL 26 AND SCHOOL 21 OPENS MARCH 16

Families of School 26 and School 21 students are required to re-register their child for the 2026-2027 school year. Students who do not re-register will not be enrolled for the 2026-2027 school. For more information regarding re-registration, please view the [informational flyer](#).

Re-Registration

ATTENTION PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING:

School 26 & School 21

RE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO SECURE ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR AT YOUR CHILD'S HOME SCHOOL. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RE-REGISTER WILL NOT BE ENROLLED FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

SCHOOL 26 DATES				
Monday March 16 1PM-6PM	Tuesday March 17 1PM-6PM	Wednesday March 18 1PM-6PM	Thursday March 19 1PM-6PM	

SCHOOL 21 DATES				
Monday March 23 1PM-6PM	Tuesday March 24 1PM-6PM	Wednesday March 25 1PM-6PM	Thursday March 26 1PM-6PM	Saturday March 28 9AM-1PM

MAKE-UP DATES FOR SCHOOL 26 & SCHOOL 21

Monday March 30 8AM-12PM	Tuesday March 31 8AM-12PM	Wednesday April 1 8AM-12PM	Thursday April 2 8AM-12PM
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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES SEL DAY 2026



Paterson Public Schools proudly celebrated Social Emotional Learning Day on March 2 as schools highlighted the vital role that social-emotional learning plays in student success both in and out of the classroom. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell visited School 10 where this year's theme, "Skills for Community, Skills for Career" drove engaging K-8 student activities and interactive SEL stations.



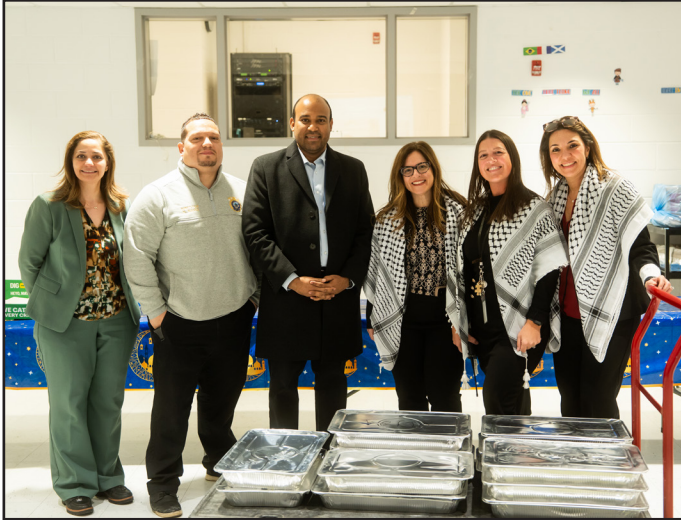
SCHOOL 28 DEBUTS BRAND NEW BOOK VENDING MACHINE

Thanks to their decade-long partnership with William Paterson University, School 28 has received a brand new book vending machine. "Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine" will grace the hallways of School 28 for years to come, promoting and fostering a love of reading, rewarding good behavior, and providing book access for the many students that are part of the school community. William Paterson University has brought great insight, research-based initiatives, and a plethora of resources to School 28 for many years and it continues with the new book vending machine.



DHA HOSTS INAUGURAL IFTAR IN HONOR OF RAMADAN

The Dr. Hanı Awadallah School community gathered for a night of unity and reflection on February 26 for its inaugural Iftar in honor of Ramadan. Iftar is an evening meal served at sunset to break the daily fast during Ramadan. During the event, students shared heartfelt reflections on the importance of self-control, reflection, and good deeds. The gathering, which was attended by Board of Education President Joel D. Ramirez, Board of Education Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Assistant Superintendent Nahed Badawy, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren, school leadership, and staff, marked the beginning of a powerful new community tradition at Dr. Hanı Awadallah School.



SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School's 100th Day Celebration was more than just a milestone—it was a vibrant showcase of the joy and unity that define its learning environment. Staff and students fully embraced the spirit by sporting their best 100-year old looks. The excitement continued with a building-wide scavenger hunt for hidden photos of school leadership. The day sparked laughter and strengthened the school's Stallion pride.



PATERSON P-TECH PRESENTED 2026 STEM COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Paterson P-Tech and its local partners were recently presented the 2026 STEM Collaboration of the Year award by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network. The award recognizes outstanding cross-sector collaborations that expand access to meaningful, hands-on STEM learning opportunities across New Jersey. Through the school's collaborations with Paterson Museum, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, and NASA Solar System Ambassador Michael Greene, Paterson P-TECH students served as facilitators and mentors, applying their STEM knowledge while developing leadership and service skills.



MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

March 13 1 PM Students & PEA Staff Dismissal
March 20 Eid Al Fitr (Observed) - District Closed

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, March 11. 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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