



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

MARCH 12, 2026 | VOL. 27

CHAMPIONS! EASTSIDE, JFK CHEER TEAMS WIN STATE TITLES



In a historic day for Paterson Public Schools, both Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School captured state titles at the New Jersey Cheerleading & Dance Coaches Association (NJCDCA) State Championship competition on Saturday, March 7 at Monroe Township High School. The Ghosts took home their school's first state championship by winning the top prize in the All-Music Co-Ed division. Building on their 2025 accomplishment as the first Paterson high school to ever win an NJCDCA state title, the Knights took first place in the Cheer Dance Medium/Large Group division.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Last week's districtwide observation of Read Across America Week was more than just a celebration of books – it was a celebration of the doors that literacy opens for our students. Reading is the fundamental building block of a high-quality education. It sparks imagination and builds the character necessary for our scholars to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Creativity and imagination were on full display in the schools I visited where I had the pleasure of reading with our students and joining in their literacy activities. I was warmly welcomed by students and staff, and I had the opportunity to engage in conversations about favorite books, characters, and the importance of reading every day. These visits were inspiring and a reminder that when we prioritize literacy, we open doors of opportunity for our students.

Honoring Women's History Month in Paterson Public Schools

March is Women's History Month, and the district is taking time to honor the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and within our own community. Across Paterson Public Schools, students and staff are coming together to honor trailblazing women who have shaped our world. Through engaging lessons and projects, our students will explore achievements of women in every field – from science and government, to the arts and education.

By celebrating these legacies, we encourage every student to dream big and pursue their own goals with confidence. I look forward to the creativity and dedication that will be shown by our schools in honoring this important month and fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



MONTHLY VPs MEETING FOCUSES ON PREPAREDNESS AND EARLY INTERVENTION



Paterson Public Schools' vice principals came together on March 9 for their monthly meeting at Central Office to learn about emergency preparedness and using district resources for early student intervention. Director of School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Dalton Price took the vice principals through different emergency scenarios that could arise in their schools while emphasizing the importance of a strong, coordinated emergency response in a school setting. Director of Assessment, Planning, and Evaluation Luis Valentin presented on using LinkIt for early student intervention while Supervisor of Assessment, Planning, and Evaluation Kathelin LaPaix addressed early intervention for freshman students in a session for high school vice principals.

EASTSIDE EDUCATOR HONORED AS 'EVERYDAY HERO' BY NJ HALL OF FAME

Eastside High School Spanish teacher Ms. Marbel Tamayo was recognized on March 7 as an Everyday Hero by the New Jersey Hall of Fame. The prestigious honor celebrates ordinary New Jerseyans who make positive and extraordinary contributions to their communities.

An educator who has served Paterson Public Schools for 30 years, Ms. Tamayo has fostered linguistic excellence and community service in the district. She has served as the advisor for the National Spanish Honor Society and the National Spanish Exam, guiding generations of students toward national academic recognition.

The event was attended by many esteemed dignitaries, including Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese New Jersey Chapter President Sybil Sánchez Jácome. Eastside student Camilla M. spoke at the ceremony, describing Ms. Tamayo as a "warrior", a testament to her resilience in maintaining a steadfast devotion to her students while navigating significant personal health challenges.



EASTSIDE HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH LEGACY OF THE CLARK FAMILY

In a powerful tribute to both its storied past and its vibrant future, Eastside High School hosted a landmark Black History Month celebration on Monday, headlined by a homecoming of the Clark family. The event, falling during the school's historic 100th anniversary year, served as a bridge between the legendary leadership of the late Principal Joe Clark and the next generation of leaders from Eastside.

Joetta and Hazel Clark, daughters of Principal Clark, took the stage to share personal wisdom and insights from their father's legacy. Their message to the student body was clear – maintain the discipline to dream big and the resilience to keep reaching for excellence.

The celebration, which was attended by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cicely Warren and community dignitaries, featured a showcase of incredible student performances, including spoken word, music, and dance, all centered on the themes of Black heritage and the continuing pursuit of greatness.



INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRAGON TEAM SPREADS LUNAR NEW YEAR JOY

Students from the International High School's International Club shared the joy of Lunar New Year through two special dragon dance performances this February.

On February 13, the team joined students from across the state at Seton Hall University for a celebration hosted by the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association (NJCTA). They continued their tour on February 26, bringing the vibrant traditions of the dragon dance to the Englewood Public School District.

Comprising a diverse group of students from various ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, the team dedicated their after-school hours to mastering these performances. Their commitment to promoting cultural understanding earned them well-deserved recognition in several major Chinese-language newspapers, highlighting the global impact of the student's performances.



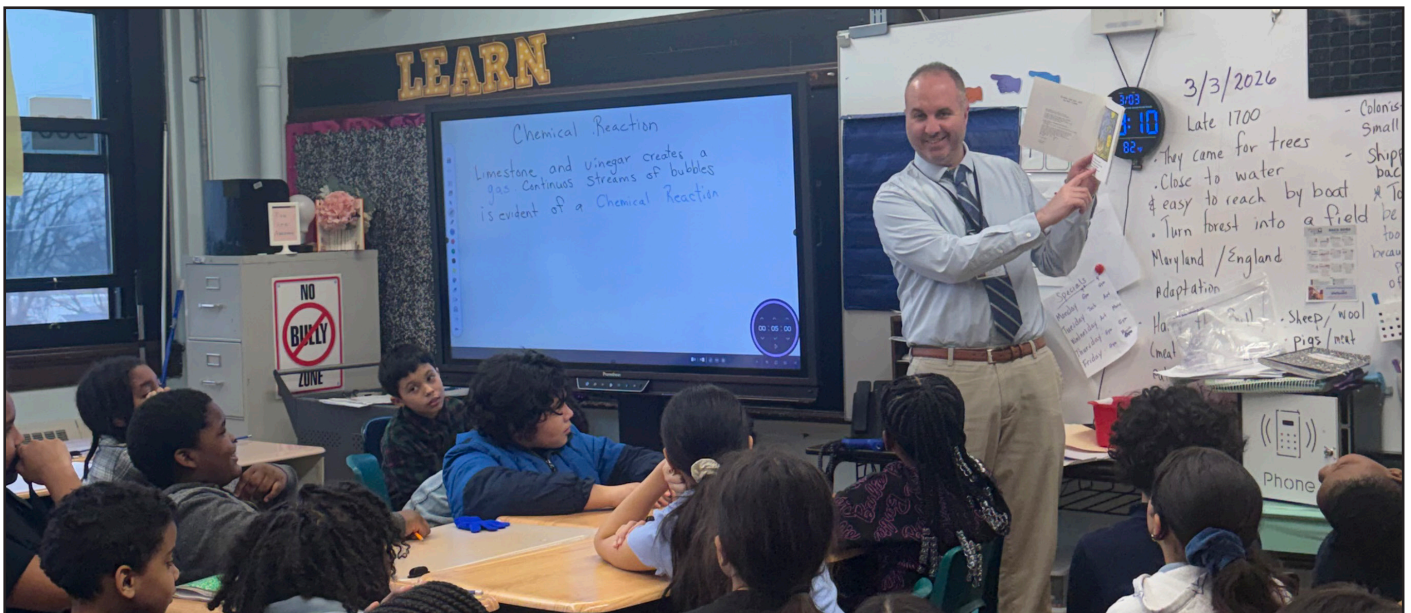
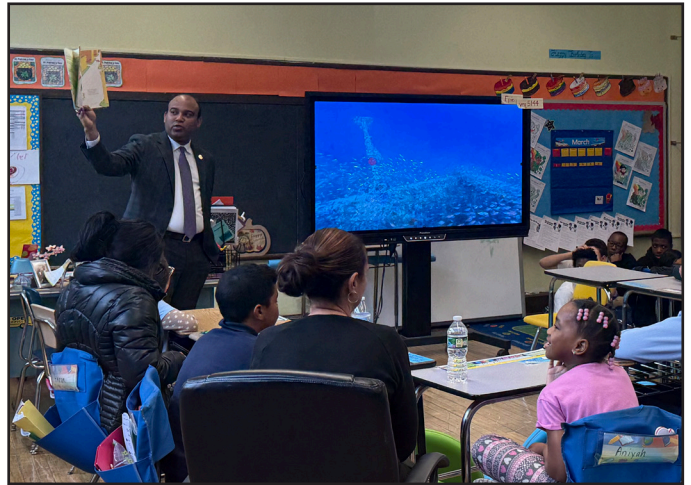
SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG SCHOOL COMMEMORATES READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School hosted a packed Read Across America Week last week as it welcomed an array of community leaders and district officials to engage students in the transformative power of storytelling.

Under the coordination of Reading Specialist Jonathan Raditch and the leadership of Interim Principal Dr. Sherri Brackett, the week's activities commenced last Monday, coinciding with International Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day. Author Dr. Ibn Sharif Shakoor addressed second and third-grade students, reading his work *Shine Back* to promote themes of confidence and perseverance. On Tuesday, the curriculum integrated cross-disciplinary learning as Supervisor of Mathematics Mr. Eric Larro visited fourth-grade classrooms to demonstrate the intersection of literacy and mathematical concepts. The momentum continued Wednesday with Assistant Superintendent Nahed Badawy, whose participation underscored the district's overarching commitment to literacy across all grade levels.

The latter half of the week highlighted the diverse cultural and community fabric of Paterson. On Thursday, Paterson Board of Education President Joel D. Ramirez met with fourth and fifth-grade multilingual scholars, conducting readings in Spanish to celebrate linguistic heritage. President Ramirez returned Friday to engage with second and third-grade students and self-contained special education classes. The final day also featured Ms. Daysi Gonzalez, Division Director of the Passaic County Workforce Development Board, and Reverend Kenneth Clayton, Senior Pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church, who shared inspiring narratives with the school's youngest learners.

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School extends its sincere gratitude to these partners for their role in making the 2026 observance a profound success.



JOSEPH A. TAUB SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE POWER OF READING

Joseph A. Taub School celebrated Read Across America Week by combining literacy, school spirit, and kindness through a series of engaging activities.

A major highlight included a massive book donation organized by Mr. Schuetz, which allowed students to select books to take home, alongside a Reading Bingo Board Challenge to maintain literacy momentum. The week also honored the global academic success of Beable winners Yareli G. and Sandy M., who secured 1st and 3rd place in the world, respectively, showcasing the school's commitment to excellence and the enduring joy of reading.



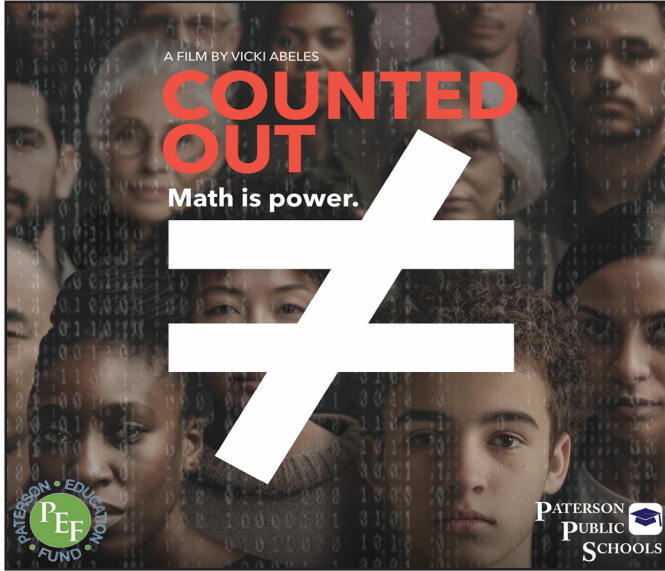
DR. NEWELL, DR. HENDERSON VISIT SCHOOL 26 DURING READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Paterson Public Schools celebrated the joy of reading last week as Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson visited School 26 for Read Across America Week. The district leaders spent the morning engaging with the students, leading energetic read-alongs, and sharing their favorite stories to inspire a lifelong love of literacy.



INTERNATIONAL HS TO HOST SPECIAL SCREENING OF COUNTED OUT

Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson Education Fund are proud to host a special community screening of the thought-provoking documentary *Counted Out* at International High School on Thursday, March 26 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Registration is required to attend and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



STAFF REMINDER

FORMS, HANDBOOKS, AND MORE CAN BE FOUND ON HR'S WEBPAGE

Paterson Public Schools employees can find everything they need regarding health benefits, standard operating procedures, and more on the [Department of Human Resources](#) webpage on paterson.k12.nj.us. This centralized resource ensures all staff members have access to the essential documents and support tools needed to navigate their professional journey with ease.



ROSA PARKS' DECA CHAPTER CONTINUES SUCCESS

Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts' Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Chapter recently competed at the NJ DECA State Conference. Following record performances—including scholarship wins and officer accolades—three students qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA, this April. DECA is an international non-profit student organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.



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 year. 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

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 Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 1st, 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, April 15th. 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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