



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

APRIL 23, 2026 | VOL. 32

CNBC “FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS” EVENT EMPOWERS JFK STUDENTS



John F. Kennedy High School students were treated to an engaging and informative program put on by CNBC on Tuesday, April 21, called “Financial Foundations”, an interactive event designed to help prepare students for their financial futures after graduation.

Spearheaded by JFK Principal JoAnne Riviello, Vice Principal Jarius Thompson, and Pathway Associate Supervisor Edwin Hernandez, the initiative aligns with the district’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Pathways programs. CTE and Pathways are designed to prepare students for high-demand, high-wage careers or further education by blending rigorous academics, technical skill-building, and applied, real-world learning.

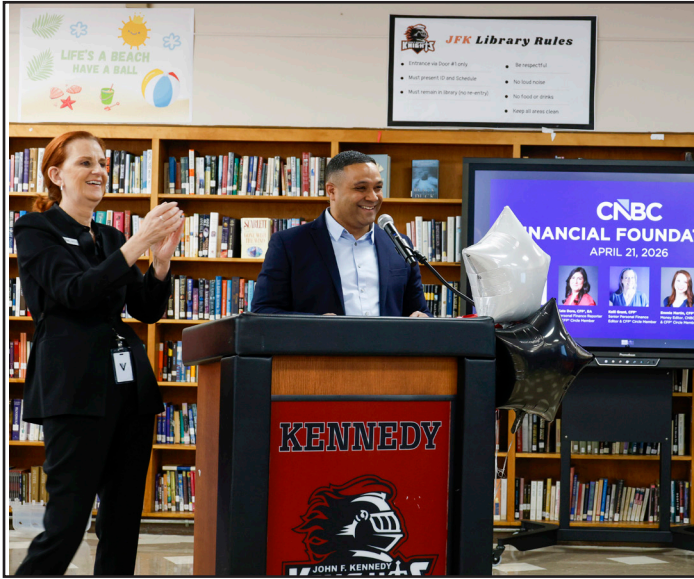
“I am grateful for the journalists and financial professionals from CNBC who offered their wisdom to our brilliant students,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, who attended the event along with district administrators. “These programs provide the foundation for our students to have a future where they understand their finances and make smart, prudent decisions.”

Split into four sessions, the fast-paced event allowed approximately 50 students to hear directly from and interact with the CNBC CFP® Circle, a select group of journalists who hold the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation. During the dynamic sessions, many JFK students were posed with situational questions and responded with insightful answers. It made for a lively atmosphere that was filled with spirited debate, thoughtful inquiry, and a sense of shared empowerment.

For more information about this event, please visit our [website](#).



CNBC FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS AT JFK



Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

April is National Financial Literacy Month, a timely reminder that financial literacy is an essential life skill. We want our students to build the knowledge and confidence needed to lead secure and successful lives. This commitment was on display this past Tuesday, April 21, when John F. Kennedy High School hosted CNBC for its “Financial Foundations” event. This initiative saw students participate in workshops focused on real-world skills such as understanding a paystub, managing daily expenses, and planning for long-term financial independence. I encourage our families to continue these conversations at home. Talking to your children about budgeting, saving, and making informed financial decisions is one of the most valuable lessons you can provide.



Take Your Child to Work Day at Paterson Public Schools

On Thursday, April 23, the district participated in Bring Your Child to Work Day. By bringing their children into a professional setting, our staff provided meaningful exposure to the world of work. Students experienced firsthand the “behind-the-scenes” of public education – seeing the leadership, coordination, and care it takes to run a school district. This experience not only showed them what we do, but more importantly why we do this important work. It highlights the importance of service, a strong work ethic, and the diverse career paths available within a community.

To our staff members: thank you for sharing your workplace with your families. You are your children’s first and most important role models, and by showing them your commitment to the Paterson community, you are helping inspire the next generation.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



PPS LEADERSHIP TRAINS ON BUILDING ANNUAL SCHOOL PLANS

Paterson Public Schools' principals and vice principals gathered at Central Office on April 20 and April 22, respectively, for their monthly meetings that focused on building an effective annual school plan. The professional development sessions also included updates from the Department of Assessment, Planning, and Evaluation, and the Department of Technology.

Following a welcome from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, principals and vice principals heard from Assistant Superintendents Dr. David Cozart, Ms. Nahed Badawy, Dr. Cicely Warren, and Ms. Maria Santa as they guided leadership through the purpose of an effective annual school plan. After breaking into groups for discussion, the leaders were then briefed further about identifying priority performance needs and strategies to efficiently develop their annual school plans.



MARIA MAGDA O'KEEFE STUDENTS SPEND A DAY IN A HIGH SCHOOL THEATER



Students from Maria Magda O'Keefe School recently stepped into the world of high school performing arts during an exciting and immersive visit to Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts.

Under the direction of Maria Magda O'Keefe School's Mr. Laurence Wagner and Rosa Parks' Ms. Bettina Peets, students were given the unique opportunity to experience what it means to be a high school theater student for a day. This hands-on experience went far beyond acting on stage. Students explored the many lucrative and in-demand careers that exist behind the scenes in the performing arts industry.

Through guided, interactive workshops, they learned how to design and execute lighting cues, properly mic performers for live productions, organize and manage front-of-house operations, and assist with stage management. Each station provided real-world insight into the technical and managerial aspects of theater production, helping students understand the collaborative effort required to bring a performance to life.

JFK STUDENTS CLAIM 2ND PLACE WORLDWIDE IN GLOBAL LITERACY CONTEST

John F. Kennedy High School is thrilled to celebrate ninth graders Nazifa Chowdhury and Maida Raisa who achieved second place worldwide in the Beable Winter and Spring Power Up Contest. Outperforming over 100,000 students globally, Nazifa and Maida earned this incredible ranking through their dedication to Beable literacy challenges and significant Lexile level growth. To honor their hard work, they were recently awarded a trophy and other prizes. Huge congratulations to Nazifa, Maida, and their ESL teacher, Mrs. Gulen Balci, for representing JFK High School on the world stage.



“START YOUR ENGINES FOR ACCEPTANCE”: MLK HOLDS SPECIAL FLAG RAISING

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex proudly kicked off Autism Acceptance Month with its inaugural Autism Awareness and Acceptance Flag Raising Ceremony, a powerful and unifying event that brought together students, staff, families, and community partners. This year’s theme, “Start Your Engines for Acceptance — Every Racer Belongs on the Track,” reflects the school’s belief that every student has a unique journey and deserves the opportunity to succeed.

This event created a meaningful space where our students could be celebrated for who they are, surrounded by a community that embraces their strengths and individuality. Throughout the ceremony, our school community demonstrated what it means to come together with purpose. Families joined us in the celebration, students proudly participated, and community partners helped bring our vision to life. It was a true reflection of unity, pride, and Panther spirit. As we move through Autism Acceptance Month, MLK will continue to celebrate its students and reinforce its message loud and clear: at MLK, every racer belongs on the track.



TWIRL PROJECT OUTFITS NEWCOMERS SENIORS FOR PROM

In celebration of the first prom for Newcomers High School's inaugural graduating class, seniors had the opportunity to participate in a free shopping event filled with beautifully donated dresses and accessories. Students were able to explore a wide range of styles and sizes, finding the perfect look for their big night. The excitement and joy were undeniable as they prepared for an unforgettable evening honoring their achievements.

The event was hosted by the Twirl Project, a local group started by two students at nearby Ramapo High School that collects donations to buy new dresses and gently-used gowns. Newcomers thanks guidance counselor Ms. Julissa Batista for her exceptional leadership in coordinating this event and making this unforgettable experience possible for our seniors.



EASTSIDE SCHOLARS SECURE 36 MEDALS IN NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

Eastside High School students achieved a historic milestone by winning 36 medals in the 2026 National Spanish Exam (NSE). Under the guidance of Ms. Marbel Tamayo, who celebrates a decade of leading this competition at Eastside and other schools, these young scholars demonstrated excellence among thousands of students nationwide.

"This achievement is a direct result of the discipline and passion our students have for the language," said Ms. Tamayo. "They are prepared to be global citizens in a bilingual world."

Here is a breakdown of Eastside's 2026 NSE award winners: 12 Gold Medals (highest national honor), 10 Silver Medals, seven Bronze Medals, seven Honorable Mention honorees.



SCHOOL 13 EXPLORES DISABILITY AWARENESS THROUGH STORYTELLING

As part of School 13's ongoing commitment to fostering empathy, students in grades K-8 recently listened to a staff reading of the story "Perfectly Created". Written by C.D. Hill, an educator at Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts, the narrative explores a young girl's journey in discovering and understanding her brother's disability.

Additionally, two teachers with disabilities shared their life experiences with the students. These meaningful conversations helped bridge the gap between literature and real-life, encouraging our students to lead with kindness and curiosity in every interaction.



EASTSIDE STUDENTS FIND THEIR VOICE THROUGH ART AND CONNECTION



Eastside High School students experienced a meaningful classroom experience that linked students to the real-world art community.

Recently, students crafted expressive Zentangle artworks inspired by contemporary artist Iris Gill. Using ink pen and watercolor, they examined the theme of family, weaving personal stories through patterns, lines, and colors. This project fostered both creative expression and emotional depth.

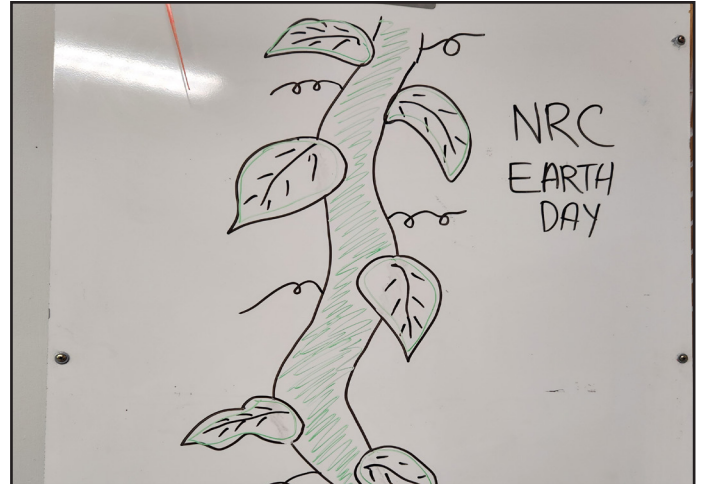
To deepen their learning, Eastside art teacher Ms. Nupur Gupta contacted the artist and shared the students' work. The class was grateful that she responded with thoughtful, encouraging feedback, noting how each student uniquely interpreted her art and called their pieces "holistic" with "special stories." Her insights on creativity as a healing and self-connection tool resonated with the class.

Such experiences showcase the value of authentic learning — where students not only create but also feel recognized by practicing artists beyond school. Proud of my students' creativity, courage, and voice.

NEW ROBERTO CLEMENTE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH HANDS-ON SCIENCE

In celebration of Earth Day, students at NRC, proudly known as the Pirates, took their learning beyond the classroom and into the living world by engaging in a hands-on science project: germinating pinto bean seeds. This initiative blended environmental awareness with practical application, giving students a direct look at how life begins and what it takes to sustain it. Guided by their teachers, students explored the early stages of plant growth, observing how seeds transform when provided with the right conditions—water, air, and warmth.

This meaningful project was made possible through the support of Full Service Community Schools, whose sponsorship provided the materials and resources needed to bring the activity to life. Their contribution ensured that every student could actively participate, reinforcing the importance of community partnerships in education. More than a science experiment, the germination project served as a reminder of our shared responsibility to the planet. By nurturing their seeds, students reflected on the broader role humans play in protecting and sustaining Earth's natural resources.



PARENT REMINDERS

SCHOOL 10 RE-REGISTRATION TO BEGIN ON APRIL 27

Families of School 10 students must re-register their child for the 2026-2027 school year. Failure to re-register will result in your child being unenrolled from Paterson Public Schools. Please be sure to complete the re-registration process as outlined. For more information regarding re-registration, please view the [informational flyer](#) or call 973-321-2501.

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES

Paterson Public Schools invites our multilingual families to join us for two essential informational events designed to support your child's academic journey and future success. These sessions will provide valuable insights into the programs and resources available within our district.

April 30, 5:00-6:00 PM, Eastside High School: Learn about ESL courses, the Seal of Biliteracy, and student success pathways.

May 1, 4:00-5:30 PM, Joseph A. Taub School: Discuss high school planning, available resources, and ACCESS testing information.

Re-Registration

ATTENTION PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING:

School 10

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

DATES			
Monday April 27 1PM-6PM	Tuesday April 28 1PM-6PM	Wednesday April 29 1PM-6PM	Thursday April 30 1PM-6PM

📢 MAKE-UP DATES

Monday May 4 8AM-12PM	Tuesday May 5 8AM-12PM	Wednesday May 6 8AM-12PM	Thursday May 7 8AM-12PM
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MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

- April 23 Report Card Parent Conferences
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (JAT, NRC, DHA, Grades 9-12)
- April 24. 1 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, 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, May 13th. 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 Pulse 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 the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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