THE PULSE
The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | VOL. 13

JFK ESTABLISHES FIRST NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTER

John F. Kennedy High School recently marked an exciting academic milestone with an induction ceremony for its first National English Honor Society (NEHS) chapter, welcoming the inaugural class of 18 students into the Knights of the Literati.

The establishment of the chapter recognizes students for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence in English Language Arts. The inaugural inductees now join a national organization that celebrates scholarship and achievement in English studies.

“I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly inducted members and express my appreciation to the staff members whose efforts helped establish the chapter,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “The Knights of the Literati represents a new addition to John F. Kennedy High School’s academic community, offering opportunities to encourage literary scholarship, student achievement, and a continued appreciation for the written word.”

The induction ceremony included an opening address from Christopher Lockwood, National Director of the National English Honor Society, and was attended by district leaders, community dignitaries, educators, families, and students.

The chapter’s establishment was made possible through the leadership and support of faculty advisors Ms. Lori Hoffman, Mr. Micah Desiante, Ms. Gillian Leigh, Ms. Sarah Mostafa, and Dr. Jason Rieder.

The National English Honor Society (NEHS), founded and sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, is the only international organization exclusively for secondary students and faculty who, in the field of English, merit special note for past and current accomplishments. Individual secondary schools are invited to petition for a local chapter, through which individuals may be inducted into Society membership. Immediate benefits of affiliation include academic recognition, scholarship and award eligibility, and opportunities for networking with others who share enthusiasm for, and accomplishment in, the language arts.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,



This week, we recognize American Education Week, November 16-20, a time to celebrate the important role public education plays in shaping students' futures and to honor the educators, staff, families, and community members who contribute to their learning and success.

Across Paterson Public Schools, teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, office personnel, custodians, security staff, food service workers, and many other professionals work together to create safe, welcoming learning environments. Each plays an important role in providing our students with the support, resources, and guidance they need to succeed. Our schools thrive because of the collective efforts of employees, families, and community partners.

Throughout American Education Week, each day highlights the contributions of those who make public education possible:

Monday, November 16 – Kickoff Day: Celebrating public education through school announcements and other activities that highlight the importance of our schools.

Tuesday, November 17 – Family Day: Encouraging family engagement through parent classroom visits and opportunities to connect with school communities.

Wednesday, November 18 – Education Support Professionals (ESP) Day: Recognizing the essential contributions of school support staff, including custodians, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers.

Thursday, November 19 – Educator for a Day: Inviting community members and local leaders to experience school life and gain a deeper understanding of the work educators do each day.

Friday, November 20 – Substitute Educators Day: Honoring substitute teachers and recognizing the important role they play in maintaining continuity in our classrooms.

As we celebrate American Education Week, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributes to the success of our students. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment make a difference in our schools every day.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



STUDENTS EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES AT COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR



Paterson Public Schools high school students gathered at John F. Kennedy High School on November 19 for the district's annual College and Career Fair, an event designed to connect students with a wide range of educational and professional opportunities beyond graduation.

Dozens of colleges and universities participated, giving students the opportunity to meet with admissions representatives, ask questions, and learn more about their academic offerings and enrollment processes. Representatives from trade schools, community organizations, and military branches also attended, introducing students to additional pathways for pursuing their interests and career goals.

The event was organized by the Department of Guidance and Counseling, with support from local McDonald's owners and operators.

Through initiatives like the College and Career Fair, Paterson Public Schools continues to expand opportunities for students to explore their interests, identify potential pathways, and make informed decisions about their futures.

DISTRICT HOSTS MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL PARENT FORUM AT MMO

Paterson Public Schools brought families together for an important discussion about the Middle School Model during a Parent Forum held at Maria Magda O'Keefe School on Wednesday, November 18. Led by Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Cozart, Jr., the forum provided families from School 13, School 16, and Maria Magda O'Keefe School an opportunity to share their perspectives, engage in discussion, and contribute to conversations centered on supporting student success.

Additional community forums are planned throughout the district. Families are encouraged to visit the district website and follow Paterson Public Schools on social media for upcoming dates, locations, and additional information.



RIBBON IS CUT FOR NEW FOOD PAVILION AT SCHOOL 5

Paterson Public Schools celebrated the opening of a new food pavilion at School No. 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, November 16. Made possible through the generosity of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Montclair State University, the pavilion will serve as a welcoming hub for food distributions and access to essential resources for students, families, and community members.

Joining the celebration were Board of Education President Joel D. Ramirez, Commissioner Hector L. Nieves Jr., Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell, and School No. 5 Principal Richard Sanducci.



JFK ACCOUNTING STUDENTS EXPLORE THE POWER OF INVESTING



John F. Kennedy High School's Accounting II students participated in an engaging financial literacy workshop led by Kambiz Saadat, Vice President at Ion Bank, on Thursday, Nov. 12. The interactive session introduced students to the fundamentals of investing and the importance of making informed financial decisions early in life.

Mr. Saadat emphasized that time is one of a young person's greatest financial assets and encouraged students to begin building healthy financial habits today. The discussion also addressed responsible credit card use, financial planning, and scholarship opportunities.

Experiences like this connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities and help students build a stronger financial future.

PATERSON P-TECH HOSTS PAWS FOR WELLNESS EVENT

In recognition of National Grief Awareness Month this November, Paterson P-Tech Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) Genesis Tejada, in collaboration with School Counselors Ms. Bostick and Ms. Wisdom, hosted a special wellness event for students. The team welcomed Wellness Dog Dave from the Paterson Police Department, accompanied by Officer Daniela, to campus.

Navigating grief and loss can be overwhelming for high school students, and having safe, supportive spaces on campus makes all the difference. During the event, Ms. Bostick also led students in creating personal memory cards to honor loved ones, which will be displayed on a schoolwide memory bulletin board. Students also had the opportunity to learn healthy coping strategies, connect with our counseling team, and spend time relaxing with Officer Dave.

Paterson P-Tech thanks Officer Daniela, Officer Dave, and the Paterson Police Department for partnering with the school to support its students' mental health and emotional well-being.



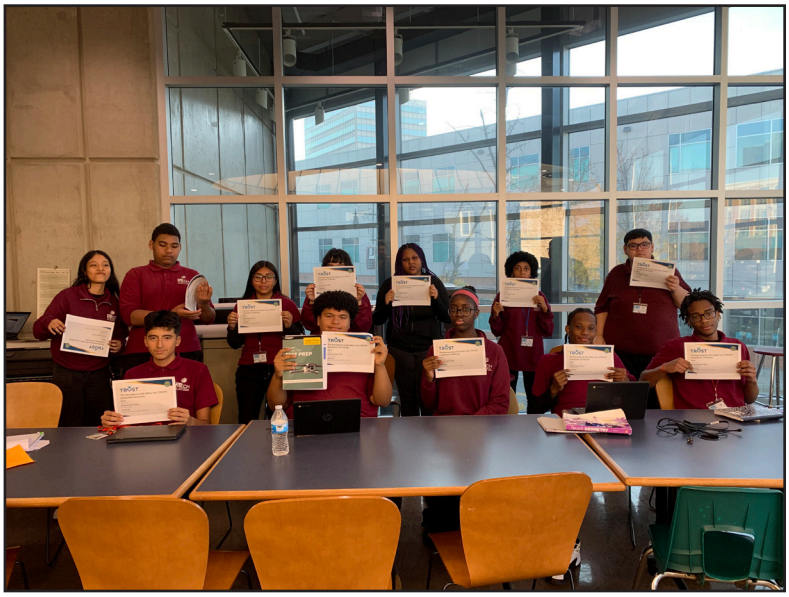
SCHOOL 26 HOLDS ANNUAL RUBY BRIDGES WALK



School 26 staff and students proudly participated in its indoor Ruby Bridges Walk on Friday, November 13. As the school community walked in honor of Ruby Bridges, the community reflected on her remarkable courage, bravery, and determination to stand up for equality and create change.

School 26 students walked to honor her legacy and recognize the importance of kindness, inclusion, acceptance, and standing up for what is right. Through this experience, School 26 staff hoped to inspire students to understand that even one person can make a difference.

PATERSON P-TECH STUDENTS EARN FAA TRUST CERTIFICATION



Paterson P-Tech High School is reaching new heights as students in its growing Aerospace & Drone Technology Pathway successfully earned their FAA Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) certificates through an FAA-approved training platform hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

This achievement marks an exciting milestone as students develop essential knowledge of aviation safety, airspace regulations, and responsible drone operations while earning a credential they can carry beyond the classroom.

With hands-on flight experiences, advanced drone training, and future FAA Part 107 certification preparation on the horizon, Paterson P-Tech is building meaningful pathways into aviation and aerospace careers.

STUDENTS STEP UP: NRC GEARS UP FOR SGA ELECTIONS

Election season has arrived at New Roberto Clemente Middle School, and its students are taking it seriously. Candidates for Student Government Association (SGA) office are tackling the issues that matter most to their classmates as they work to earn a spot on this year's slate of officers.

The hallway walls are covered with colorful campaign posters, each one sharing a candidate's ideas and asking for students' votes. Candidates have also taken their campaigns online, reaching classmates virtually so that every student has a chance to learn where they stand.

NRC's social studies teachers are leading the effort and turning the election into a real-world lesson. Students are learning how local government works, why every vote counts, and how leaders listen to the people they serve. Most importantly, the process gives every student a voice, whether they are running for office or casting a ballot.

Kudos to all of the student candidates and voters for taking their civic duty seriously. The students are showing what responsible leadership and active citizenship look like, and the school community could not be prouder. Voting begins this Friday, and every student who casts a ballot will receive an "I VOTED" sticker to wear with pride.



MARIA MAGDA O'KEEFE SCHOOL STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Maria Magda O'Keefe School 5th grade teacher Ms. Cordova had the pleasure of working with 2nd grade bilingual teacher Mrs. Caraballo on a Veterans Day community outreach project. Together, they created an informative slide presentation to help students learn about Veterans Day and why it is important to thank veterans for their service to our country.

After the presentation, Ms. Cordova's 5th grade students wrote thank-you cards for veterans. They then visited Mrs. Caraballo's classroom to help the 2nd grade bilingual students create their own cards. The collaboration provided a meaningful opportunity for students across grade levels to work together and express their gratitude to veterans.

Ms. Cordova then delivered the cards to Sherwood English, the Assistant Veterans Service Officer with the Passaic County Office of Veterans' Services. Mr. English presented them to veterans at a ceremony hosted by the department. This project connected students with the wider community and gave them a meaningful way to recognize and thank those who served our country.



CELEBRATION FOR RED RIBBON WEEK AT SCHOOL 16

School 16 celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a successful schoolwide fundraiser promoting substance abuse awareness while raising funds to support student trips and educational resources.

The fundraiser featured a variety of items, including backpacks, pencils, pens, bracelets, and water bottles, helping spread an important message about making healthy, positive choices. Organized by Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) Mr. Bush and 7th grade teacher Ms. Capers, the initiative brought together students from kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as staff members. Student volunteers helped promote the fundraiser by visiting classrooms and staffing a table during lunch.

Adding to the excitement, school mascots greeted students and staff, posed for photos, and helped make the celebration a memorable experience for the entire school community. To watch a video recap of the week, click here.



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Have a story you'd like to share?

- Stories highlighting school activities or recognitions (i.e., awards)
- Inspiring stories involving students, teachers, and staff
- Fun events that took place at your school or in the community involving students, teachers, and staff

Use our Newsletter Submission Google Form

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

November 25 . . . . . 1:00 PM Student/1:20 PM Staff Dismissal
Novmeber 26-27 . . . . . .Thanksgiving - District Closed

Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, December 9 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, December 16. 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.

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della Wilder, Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Corey L. Teague

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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

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