

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career.

Together We Can!

October 16, 2017

2017 Family and Community Engagement Conference Wrap-Up



The 2017 Family & Community Engagement Conference held last Saturday was a great success facilitated by many community stakeholders and leaders who delivered impactful advice, resources and encouragement to over 100 attendees. The Department of Family and Community Engagement, in their efforts to provide a solid foundation of support for the children of Paterson Public Schools, presents this popular event annually.

The keynote speaker, former assistant superintendent Maria Santa, gave a rousing speech about parental involvement and a message of caring and nurturing that touched everybody in the Passaic County Community College (PCCC) theatre. Acting Superintendent Eileen Shafer delivered a speech that focused on the need to work together and build bridges.

Following the insightful talks from Ms. Shafer and Mrs. Santa, the attendees moved out to PCCC classrooms for workshops with individual presenters who introduced them to various community-based resources.

CAHTS' Great Tour of China

Six Eastside High Campus students accompanied by Principal Nieves and Mrs. Williams from the School of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism (CAHTS), had the privilege of touring three major cities in China this past summer. Accompanied by an expert local guide, the students and chaperones toured the city of Beijing and participated numerous activities including a visit to a local school, the famous "Summer Palace," enjoyed a dragon boat ride, participated in a Tai Chi lesson, and toured Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. After the marathon of tours, the Eastside travelers enjoyed a dinner of *Peking Duck* at a local restaurant.



The group also traveled to the town of Badaling, where they climbed the Great Wall of China, participated in a tea ceremony, took a rickshaw tour of the Hutong neighborhood and enjoyed a traditional Chinese meal with a Hutong host family. Additional activities the Eastside travelers experienced included: a tour of the *Temple of Heaven Park*, a bike ride on the ancient city wall, a tour of the archeological site of the *Terracotta Army*, the Muslim Street Market, the Shanghai World Financial Center, a Chinese Acrobatic show, and a visit to a Buddhist Temple.

It was a life-changing experience that the students will never forget and there will be more to come. Next on Eastside's "Bucket list" is the continent of Africa!



David Thompson, of "Halls that Inspire" fame, has created numerous murals bearing positive messages with district students. Most recently, Mr. Thompson, along with Great Falls Academy art teacher Ms. Clark, worked together on the school's first wall design.

**Effective Academic Programs • Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures
Family & Community Engagement • Efficient & Responsive Operations**

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