

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career

Together We Can!

March 11, 2019

Paterson Public Schools Celebrates Black History



The Paterson Public School District hosted a warm, moving and powerful evening of performances at its annual celebration of Black History Month. District Chief of Staff Pamela M. Powell led the celebration, and remarks were given by Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer and Board of Education Vice President Nakima Redmon. The celebration showcased the talents and abilities of students from the Norman S. Weir School, the School of Education and Training (SET), Public School 24, and the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts.

State Officials Honor Black History at Rosa Parks High School

Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer and Principal Jalyn Lyde welcomed New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, N.J. Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly, N.J. Secretary of State Tahesha Way, and N.J. Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis to Rosa Parks High School (RPHS) on February 27 for a special ceremony and panel discussion to commemorate Black History Month. In keeping with the event's theme of "Remember From Whence We Came – This Far and Further," two RPHS seniors were honored for their recent achievements: Taniesha Gilbert who recently scored 1,000 points as a basketball player for the John F. Kennedy Lady Knights, and Khadija Moody, who was named a finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.



Public School 21 Becomes A Black History Museum



Public School 21 students and staff transformed their school building into an African-American multicultural museum. Each floor had its own theme. The basement featured music, the first floor focused on dance, the second floor highlighted historically black colleges, and the third floor was an exhibit on black activism.

PS 16 Keeps In Step With Black History Month

Public School 16's 2019 Black History Month celebration, headed by Marcia Stancil-Lawson, featured the student dance troupe, "The Ladies of Distinction," who paid homage to the legendary choreographer, Alvin Ailey. Several short skits about the civil rights movement were also performed. Participants received certificates of appreciation, and a printed program that included all of their names.



Great Falls Academy: Black History Champions



Eastside High School's Social Studies Department commemorated Black History Month with a friendly *Jeopardy!*-style quiz bowl on February 15. Students from Great Falls Academy, the School of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism, the School of Information Technology and the School of Government and Public Administration showed off their knowledge of the many contributions made by African-American people in this country. Categories included: Free At Last, Sports, Medicine/Science, Government and Music. The audience members were also quizzed and earned

prizes for participation. Great Falls Academy's team of Destini Williams, Byron Cauthen, Christopher Sanchez, and Makiyy Randolph, led by Social Studies Teacher Mahagoney Borraro won the game. They had prepared for three weeks before the competition.

BTMF Students Qualify For National Business Conference

Five students from the School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance (BTMF) at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex have qualified to participate in the upcoming International Career Development Conference, an event sponsored by DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America). DECA is a national nonprofit organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. The qualifying students were members of two teams that competed in the New Jersey DECA State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City this week. The first team of Savannah Vargas, Nataly Merino and Isabel Figueroa entered their school store and won the gold-level distinction in the school-based enterprise category. They will participate in the Leadership Academy at the national conference. The second team of Anyeli Galvez and Enyeli Galvez came in fourth place for their integrated marketing campaign project. Teachers Martine Grant and Edwin Hernandez serve as co-advisors to the DECA Chapter at BTMF. The International Career Development Conference will be held in Orlando, Fla. in April.

West Point Musicians Dazzle Students at NSW

Four clarinetists and a percussionist from the West Point Band performed at the Norman S. Weir School (NSW) last week. About 100 students in grades 2-8 were in the audience, many of whom participate in after school music instruction provided by the Paterson Music Project, which is affiliated the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts. The organizations provided the opportunity for the West Point Band to play for the students. The West Point Band is the oldest continuously serving Army band, and the oldest unit at West Point, according to the band's website. The hour-long program concluded with the famous John Philip Sousa march, "The Washington Post."



Halal Food Comes to Two School Cafeterias



The John F. Kennedy Educational Complex and Public School 5 launched a new, self-operated pilot program to serve Halal food. The program may very well be the first of its kind in the State of New Jersey. "If there's one thing nearly every student and teacher knows instinctively, it's that you cannot learn on an empty stomach," said Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer at a February 25 press conference. "Therefore, a student's religion should not be the reason why a student has to go through the school day hungry." The idea of a district self-operated Halal food

program originated with members of the Paterson community who expressed their interest in this idea to commissioners on the Board of Education. The pilot program will run until the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Read Across America Day

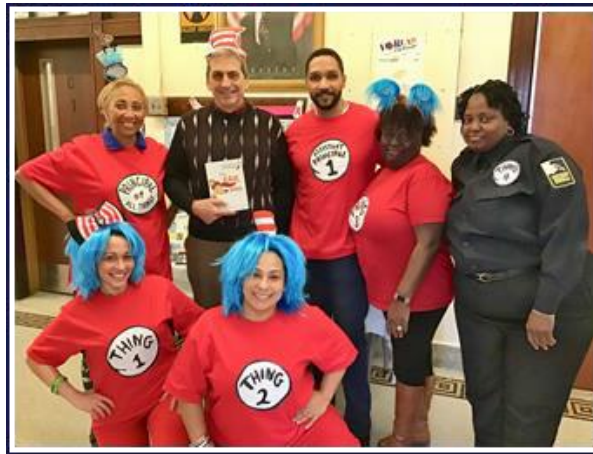
Many local officials and dignitaries came to Public School 2 to participate in its “Read Across America” event. Superintendent Eileen Shafer read *Daisy-Head Mazie* to second-graders, while Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron, a former kindergarten teacher at Public School 2, read *I Am NOT Going to Get Up Today!* to kindergarteners. Other guest readers included N.J. State Senator Nellie Pou, Paterson First Lady Fahanna Balgahoom Sayegh, City Council President Maritza Davila, Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mimms, Councilman Luis Velez, Board of Education Commissioner Joel Ramirez, Paterson Public Schools Security Officers Anthony Traina and Steven Olimpio, members of the Paterson Fire Department and staff from Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children.

Meanwhile, it was a Read Across America extravaganza week at Public School 13. Last Tuesday and Friday were the school’s Dr. Seuss Readings Days when K-4 students were treated to a wide variety of guest readers including: the school’s eighth-graders, parents Mykishea Adams and Cecele Hylton, volunteer Stan Kuzviwanza, district staff member Evelyn Demarest, Paterson First Lady Farhanna Balgahoom Sayegh, Rev. Regina Moore of Resurrection Kingdom Ministries. Other guest readers were Bronze Heat members Steve Burns, Roshawn Davis, Jihad Dunham, Sam Harris, Letitia Have, Willie Peterkin, Willie Peterkin, and Kippy Smith; Omega Psi Phi fraternity members Vincent Arrington, Ronald Lathan and Edmond Loney. The school’s Culture and Climate Committee and Action Team coordinated the events.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Complex celebrated Read Across America Day as Librarian Alexander Cardillo and Music Teacher Thomas Gaydos hosted a reading of *I Got The Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison.



MLK Rutland Center



School 2



School 13

Top “Capital-ists” Win



Renaissance One School of Humanities students have been working hard to learn all of the states and capitals. The top students were awarded a certificate of achievement and a Barnes and Noble gift card.

Cultural Diversity Celebrated at RPHS



On “Culture Day” at Rosa L. Parks School for the Fine and Performing Arts, a number of students and staff dressed to represent their cultural backgrounds.

Cost of Distraction



Science Teacher Louis Sayad's Rutgers Dual Enrollment Clinical Research students at HARP Academy are embarking on a groundbreaking research study. The students' clinical trial is designed to determine whether distraction has a significant physiological impact on reaction time. The results of the study will be used to create brochures and flyers that will be presented at the Health Occupation Students of America State Conference on March 16.

Music Magic at the WPU Collage Concert

Nearly 350 students and staff members of Public School 12 went to Shea Auditorium at William Paterson University (WPU) on February 28 to see an open rehearsal of the Collage Concert, which showcased the talents of the university's vocal and jazz student artists. Science teacher Michelle Albritton spearheaded the trip, coordinating arrangements with Betsy Golden, the school's WPU professor in residence, and Nancy Norris-Bauer, director of the WPU Department of Professional Development and School/Community Partnerships. The 90-minute program included a wide range of rock, pop, musical theater, choir and jazz selections. The aspiring Paterson musicians in the audience air-drummed, waved imaginary conductors' batons, sang along with and applauded the concert's acts.

IB Students Show Artistic Flair

International High School held the opening reception of its first art exhibition on March 6. The exhibition features works by students in the International Baccalaureate Program. The works were selected on the basis of technical competence, appropriate use of materials, techniques, and processes. The exhibit will continue until March 22.



Visiting Africa



Public School 28 students learned about African culture through a virtual tour of the continent.

Upcoming Events

Mar. 11: Special Meeting of the Board of Education

6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 90 Delaware Ave.

Mar. 12: Young Men's Leadership Academy Open House

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Mar. 12-14 Bilingual Teacher Recruitment in Puerto Rico

Mar. 13: Board of Education Workshop

6:30 p.m. at the 90 Delaware Ave Administrative Offices

Mar. 14: Strategic Plan Public Forum

6:00 p.m. at Eastside High School Campus Auditorium

Mar. 15: PEA and Student Early Dismissal

1:00 p.m. dismissal for PEA and students

Mar. 18: Special Meeting of the Board of Education

6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 90 Delaware Ave.

Mar. 20: Board of Education Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

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

Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).
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