

# Paterson Post

*Preparing All Children for College and Career*

*Together We Can!*

March 25, 2019

## Congressman Pascrell Comes to Public School No. 2



U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-9) was welcomed to Public School No. 2 on Friday by Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer and Principal Felisa Van Liew. Public School No. 2 became one of the latest district schools to become a Full Service Community School (FSCS). With the help of Congressman Pascrell's advocacy, the district was awarded a \$2.5 million federal grant last year to launch FSCS programs at Public School No. 2 and the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex. The press conference on Friday also gave a nod to Women's History Month as

Congressman Pascrell brought flowers for Shafer, Van Liew, Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau and Jessica Egger of Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children, the school's FSCS partnering agency. Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and Executive Director of Family and Community Outreach and Full Service Community Schools Kemper McDowell were also among the featured speakers.

## Superintendent, Advocates, Community Members Testify Before Senate Budget Committee

Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer testified before the state Senate Budget Committee Hearing held on Thursday at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. In her remarks, Shafer spoke about the district's \$22 million budget gap while being compelled by the state to pay nearly \$64 million to local charter schools. Rosie Grant, executive director of the Paterson Education Fund, and the Rev. Michael McDuffie were among the others who spoke before the committee in support of Paterson Public Schools.

## Busloads of District Supporters Scheduled to Rally in Trenton on Wednesday

Two buses packed with supporters of the Paterson Public Schools are scheduled to leave for Trenton on Wednesday morning, March 27, for the state Assembly's Budget Committee hearing. Parents, district administrators, Paterson Education Association members, and other district supporters will leave the Central Office Building at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Those interested in joining the trip should call 973-321-0883.

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## PPS Recognized as a Renaissance District by Arts Ed NJ

In this midst of budget cuts threatening to end arts education programs in the district, Paterson Public Schools was honored for being a “Renaissance District” for rejuvenating arts education, particularly in the elementary school grades during the past two years. The award was given by Bob Morrison, president and CEO of the Arts Ed NJ nonprofit organization, during a special celebration of Arts In Education Month on March 20. Rosie Grant, executive director of the Paterson Education Fund, served as the event’s emcee, and representatives from VH1 Save The Music Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation also spoke at the event. The highlights of the event were the works and performances by student artists. Student performers came from schools and local organizations including the Interfaith Performing Arts Center and the Paterson Music Project Public School No. 24 Wind Ensemble led by Nancy Horowitz. Shiqira Poulson, a junior at Rosa Parks High School, read an original poem. The drum lines from the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex and Eastside Educational Campus led by Craig Redmond also performed. Artwork was on display in the lobby by student-artists from the Paterson Youth Photography organization and International High School.



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## Cops Come to Public School No. 14



Principal Hillburn Sparrow and Librarian Jeff Sultanoff welcomed eight police officers from the Paterson Police Department to Public School No. 14. The police officers read to the students in the school’s Read Across America event on March 12. They were escorted through the building by members of the school’s Youth Safety Patrol.





Students from the Dale Avenue School proudly wore their Dr. Seuss hats in celebration of Read Across America this month.

## RPHS Hosts Annual Career Day

March 15<sup>th</sup> was the Rosa L Parks High School for the Fine and Performing Arts' (RPHS) annual "Career in the Arts Day," when professionals from many artistic and creative industries spoke to students. Students participated in a variety of specialized workshops that focused on specific careers, as well as job search and networking training. Guests included professional vocalists, musicians, writers, actors, sound engineers, photographers, graphic designers, and communications professionals. There was also a college and community organizations fair for the students as part of the event. The day began with an exciting preview of RPHS's June musical, *Rent*.



## Poet Performs and Talks Craft



Professional performance poet Vincent Torro visited Rosa L Parks School for the Fine and Performing Arts (RPHS) last week to meet with students and perform a variety of his award winning works. Besides engaging students with his poems, Torro spoke about his childhood, his influences and his creative process to create and perform his pieces. When asked, "Who do you write for? Other people or yourself?" by JaLeel Porcha, a senior, Torro simply responded, "I write poems to sew things back together."

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## Knight Time's Anti-Pot Rap Enters Statewide Finals



Three student rappers at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex have entered the finals of New Jersey Shout Down Drugs, a statewide contest run by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey nonprofit organization. Jayden Cornish, Andre Gardner, and Travis Anderson – a.k.a. “Knight Time” – entered their rap, *Weed Ain't Right*, in the contest which showcases original music and lyrics with powerful substance abuse prevention messages written by students from throughout New Jersey. As a finalist, Knight Time will be performing at the contest's 2019 Prevention Contest on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Rutgers University's

Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theater. For more information, and to vote in favor of *Weed Ain't Right*, visit [shoutdowndrugs.com/contestants/profile/335/](http://shoutdowndrugs.com/contestants/profile/335/).

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## IHS Earns College Board Award for Female Diversity

International High School has received the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award in recognition of the school's having a majority- female class in the AP Computer Science Principles course during the 2017-2018 school year. Of the 33 students who were enrolled in the class that year, 21 were female. The award is given to schools that have a 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses. Only 490 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for AP Computer Science Principles. Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer said it was “gratifying” to be recognized for enabling young women to make great strides in a field that has been statistically shown to be male dominated. “The students who enroll in AP Computer Science know they are signing up for a challenge, and the College Board's recognition proves that there are plenty of young women in Paterson who are up for that challenge,” said IHS' International Baccalaureate Program Principal Catherine Forfia-Dion.

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## Four District High Schools' Students to Compete in State NHD Finals

Students from four Paterson Public School District high schools will compete in the statewide National History Day (NHD) competition on May 4. In the contest, students choose a historical topic related to the annual theme, and then conduct primary and secondary research. This year's theme is *Triumph & Tragedy in History*. After students have analyzed and interpreted their sources, and have drawn a conclusion about the significance of their topic, they present their work in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a website. Seven students will go to William Paterson University in May for the state competition. Those students are as follows:

- Jazmin Paguay, Jose Vera, Nuzha Bakht, Tania Uddin (HARP Academy). Their presentation, *Flight From Castro's Shadow: Operation Pedro Pan*, was a winner in the regional competition in the Senior Group Exhibit category. Their teacher is Eileen Opromollo.
- Sienna Rojas, Gabriel Torres (School of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism at Eastside High School). Their presentation, *The Sacrifice for Civil Rights: A Mother's Legacy*, was a

winner in the regional competition in the Senior Group Performance category. Their teachers are Michelle Hamlett & Nina Jones.

- Raudy Baez (School of Information Technology at Eastside High School) His paper, Triumph and Tragedy: Nicholas II and the Collapse of the Romanov Dynasty, was a winner in the Senior Research Paper category. His teacher is Diana Scimeca.

- Katherine Casarrubias (STEM Academy) Her exhibit, Target Zero: D.A. Henderson and the Triumph Over Smallpox, was a winner in the Individual Exhibit category. Her teachers are Eric Glatz and Kathleen Renegar.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Mar. 26: Community Forum on Student Safety**

6:00 p.m. at Public School No. 9

### **Mar. 27: Rally at the State Assembly Budget Hearing in Trenton**

7:30 a.m. – buses leave 90 Delaware Ave.

### **Mar. 27: Board of Education Retreat**

5:30 p.m. at the 90 Delaware Ave Administrative Offices

### **Mar. 29: Napier Autism Awareness Walk**

9:00 at Napier Academy

### **Mar. 29: Fine and Performing Arts Choice Application Deadline**

### **Apr. 1: Taub Doby NCAA Championship**

2:00 p.m. at the Barclay Center, 620 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY

### **Apr. 1: Parents & Community Forum on School Safety Planning**

6 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

### **Apr. 3: Board of Education Workshop**

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

### **Apr. 9: 3rd Marking Period Ends**

### **Apr. 9: Strategic Plan Public Forum**

6:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

### **Apr. 12: Young Men's Leadership Academy Application Deadline**

**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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