

Paterson Post

Preparing All Children for College and Career

Together We Can!

April 8, 2019

P-TECH Scores With 60 Students Ready to Enroll



Sixty eighth grade students committed to the upcoming P-TECH (Pathways in Technology and Early College High School) at PANTHER Academy at a special “Signing Day” ceremony Thursday evening at Passaic County Community College. The new high school – which will graduate students with a high school diploma, an associate’s degree, and practical experience in the tech sector – is scheduled to launch in September. Paterson’s own Victor Cruz, Super Bowl XLVI champion wide receiver for the New York Giants, was among the dignitaries

who came to celebrate the first incoming class of P-TECH at PANTHER Academy. “I’m excited about the addition of P-TECH high school to my hometown of Paterson, N.J. This city was birthed from the minds of engineers, inventors and creators,” said Cruz. “As a philanthropist, I’m dedicated to promoting positive change in the lives of youth today through innovative educational programs and P-TECH will help educate a new wave of future engineers, inventors and creators from Paterson.” N.J. Senator Nellie Pou, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Mayor Andre Sayegh and IBM’s Martin Laird were among the dignitaries present for the event.

PPS, Parents and Courts Successfully Launch New Mock Trial Competition

In a first-time event hosted by the Paterson Public Schools and the Passaic County Vicinage of the State Superior Court, students from six district high schools faced off against each other in the city’s inaugural Spring Intermural Mock Trial Competition. Local judges and attorneys have been working as coaches of the schools’ different teams in preparation for the competition.

Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer praised all of the students who participated in the event. She also thanked Superior Court Judge Barbara Buono Stanton, PTO



Districtwide President Robert Scott, and Executive Director of Family and Community Outreach

Kemper McDowell for all of their efforts in putting together this great competition. Students from HARP Academy took the honors as the overall winners of the competition.

Patersonians Go to Trenton to Urge for School Funding

Nearly 200 educators, administrators and parents from Paterson traveled to Trenton on March 27th to voice their concerns over the devastating proposed budget cuts made necessary by the reduction in state aid and urge legislators to restore state aid to the district. Wearing stickers emblazoned with the words “Cuts hurt kids” and “Paterson students deserve better,” these stakeholders descended upon the Assembly Budget Committee hearing in a show of unity to advocate for their schools. “The proposed budget cuts do not allow the Paterson Public School District to provide a thorough and efficient education for our 28,000 students,” said Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer. “We firmly believe that any cost reductions must not be made on the backs of the people who dedicate their lives to educate the children of this city,” declared Paterson Education Association President John McEntee. Board of Education President Oshin Castillo and Paterson Education Fund Executive Director Rosie Grant were among those who testified before the State Assembly Budget Committee that day.



Scholastic Authors Come to PS 25

Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer and Principal Antoinette Young welcomed two renowned children’s book authors from Scholastic Inc. to Public School No. 25 on March 28. Lucille Colandro, author of *There Was An Old Mermaid Who Swallowed A Shark*, read her book to students in grades K-2. Later, Rita Williams-Garcia, author of *One Crazy Summer*, gave her presentation for students in grades 3-5 on what it was like to grow up as an African-American girl who aspired to be a writer.



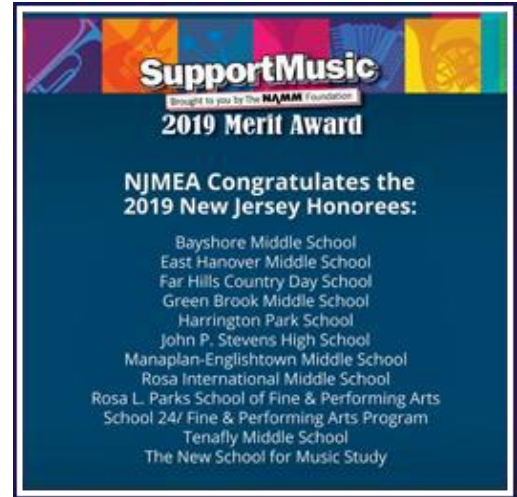
PS 20 Alumni Honored with Dedication of Walls



Public School No. 20 alumni joined eighth-graders, teachers and administrators for the dedication of the new hallway that honors past graduates of the school. Each participating alumnus is honored with their photograph and a brief biography. Guidance Counselor Karyn Stephenson came up with the idea as a way to instill “Bulldog Pride” and inspire students by showing the success achieved by previous graduates. “I wanted to hang this information in the hallway so that the kids can learn about the people who came through the halls before them,” said Stephenson.

RPHS, PS 24 Receive National Honors for Music Education

Two Paterson Public Schools were awarded the Support Music Spirit Award by the NAMM Foundation for their outstanding commitments to music education. The Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts and Public School No. 24/Fine and Performing Arts Academy received the honor that recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The Support Music Merit Award is the second arts-related honor garnered by Paterson Public Schools educators in recent weeks. On March 20, Arts Ed NJ honored Paterson Public Schools as a “Renaissance District” for revitalizing arts education in the elementary grades. To qualify for the Support Music Merit Award, both schools answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.



Sharing Wisdom with Colleagues



Kathleen Ruhle, a special education teacher at New Roberto Clemente Middle School, recently led a professional development workshop for teachers at her alma mater, William Paterson University. Her presentation, "Tools and Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom," provided an overview of Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction. She identified many online resources for the teachers who attended, including

www.understood.org, www.cast.org, and www.commonlit.org. NRC's WPU Professor in Residence Dr. Betsey Golden, worked with Ruhle in preparation for the workshop.

Paterson Public Schools Serve Up Pi Day

In recognition of Pi Day, March 14th, the mathematical constant (3.14) was celebrated by the students of the Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism School at Eastside High School who baked a variety of pies for all to enjoy. The pies prepared in the bakery were sold for \$3.14 and included flavors such as apple, sweet potato and key lime.



On March 11th, Public School No. 28 students participated in a special Pi Day competition. The students were asked to remember and recite as many numbers from the mathematical constant Pi as possible. The winner, fifth-grader Jeremiah Mathis, recited 201 numbers of Pi from memory. For his achievement, Jeremiah was awarded a special cookie pie.

Seventeen Students from CAHTS Inducted into National Honor Society



On March 20th, 17 students from the Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism School at Eastside High School were inducted into the National Honor Society. In order to be accepted as a member, each student needed to demonstrate the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character.

RPHS Students Visit MSU School of Communications and Media

Communication arts students from Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine and Performing Arts recently visited the [Montclair State University \(MSU\) School of Communications and Media](#). Students were shown the new state-of-the-art facilities by Tom Franklin, one of the professors who is a former multimedia journalist for *The Record* and *The Herald News*. Franklin achieved national notoriety as the photographer who captured the immortal image of three firefighters raising the American flag at ground zero on Sept. 11, 2001. Students also received information about the school's upcoming four-day summer journalism



workshop, which will be held from June 23 to 27 and is open to high school students in grades 10-12 who are very interested in a career in media. Qualifying students can attend the workshop for free. The application deadline is Friday, April 19. For more information and the application visit <https://montclairjournalism.com>.

PTO Workshops Underway at PS 20



Public School No. 20 staff and parents have been presenting workshops that were suggested by Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) leaders at the school. In February, after an introductory activity regarding parent-teacher relationships by Parent Coordinator Yolanda Simmons, the Principal Boris Simon reviewed the school's Annual School Plan goals and Teacher Afia Mathlib spoke about Class Dojo in attendance. At the March meeting, Vice Principals Kaela Quince-McMillan and Jennifer Woods explained the new K to 2

report card and grading system. Also, PTO Secretary Natasha Calderin spoke sincerely to parents about potential budget cuts, parent involvement and community events.

NRC Students Vying for a \$2,000 Grant from Get Schooled

The New Roberto Clemente Middle School students are currently in the lead of the first Middle School Challenge, a national contest held by the Get Schooled Foundation. Get Schooled is a nonprofit founded in 2010 by Viacom and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The challenge is for students to earn as many points as possible on [Get Schooled's web page](#). On the page, students earn points and badges by exploring different topics that are tailored to the needs of middle school students including: building self-confidence, dealing with anxiety and stress, surviving socially, getting organized, and managing time and assignments. The school that wins the challenge will win a \$2,000 grant and an end of the year celebration hosted by Get Schooled!

Upcoming Events

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

Apr. 15: Report Card Distribution

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at School 7, Don Bosco, and New Roberto Clemente

Apr. 16: Report Card Distribution

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Grades 9-12

Apr. 17: Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

Apr. 19-26: Spring Break

Schools Closed

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

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

We welcome your submissions on school and district related events. [Click here](#) to submit stories and photos.