

PPS Gets A \$2.5 Million Boost

Last week ended with tremendous news from Washington, D.C. It was announced that Paterson Public Schools has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Full Service Community Schools program. The grant will be in the amount of \$499,668 for the period of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. The grant is expected to be for 5 years for a total award of \$2,498,340 and will benefit the John F. Kennedy Educational Complex and Public School 2.

“This funding goes directly to empowering Paterson families by bringing many of the services they need to the schools their children attend,” said Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer.

Shafer thanked the Paterson Public Schools team that worked to pursue the funding including Deputy Superintendent Susana Perón, Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau, Associate Chief Academic Officer Eric Crespo, and Supervisor of School Improvement Kristy Wellins. Shafer also thanked Kemper McDowell, Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Department; and Gilman Choudhury, Supervisor of Full Service Outreach and Special Projects in the Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Department.

Letters From Mitch



When Alexander Cardillo and his 7th and 8th grade students read *Tuesdays With Morrie*, they couldn’t have guessed that they would one day get letters from the author. But that’s exactly what happened. Cardillo, a librarian at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex (School 30), said that he and his students were so inspired by the memoir that they wrote the author, Mitch Albom. Days later, each of the students received a letter from Albom in response.

Student Immigration Stories

More than 80 Paterson middle school students’ stories of immigrating to the United States have been published and are being released to local public libraries. The students’ stories were originally written as an assignment given in June 2017 by Jason Velante, an ESL teacher at Public School 21. Velante gave his students a simple writing prompt: Why I immigrated to America. His students responded with stories of hardship and triumph. Some wrote stories about surviving Hurricane Maria. Others gave accounts of traveling by boat or by air.

The stories have been published and bound in a hard cover edition that includes a dedication to “students who come to school every day.” The stories are available to read at the Wanaque Public Library and will soon be available at branches of the Paterson Free Public Library. A second edition of stories is expected to be released later this fall.



A Giant Surprise



On September 4th, just before the kickoff of the 2018 football season, the Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School football teams got a surprise visit from several New York Giants, including Paterson’s own Super Bowl Champion Victor Cruz.

The professional football players came to a practice in the late afternoon of Tuesday, September 4. After running a number of drills with the high school players, the New York Giants presented two donations from the New York

Giants Foundation - \$10,000 for each high school – for athletic equipment.

Among the other New York Giants who came to practice were center Jon Halapio, cornerback B.W. Webb, safety Michael Thomas, safety Curtis Riley and former New York Giant Keith Hamilton.

Joseph Goes to Harvard

Julie A. Joseph of the Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Technology went to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Mass. last summer to give a presentation on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is a set of curriculum development principles that can help reduce the barriers of learning by focusing on how to make the classroom environment more conducive and flexible.

Joseph is Napier Academy’s UDL Professional Learning Community supervisor and a language arts teacher. Her presentation was part of a UDL learning symposium held by CAST, a nonprofit organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through UDL.

In her presentation, Joseph shared how Napier Academy uses the UDL framework to engage and enhance learning for students from diverse and challenging backgrounds. She also shared how educators should continue to find new and creative ways to educate students as well as the need to use best practices such as UDL.

New To PPS

The district welcomes Paul Brubaker to our communications team. Brubaker is a veteran of journalism, communications and education. Among his resume highlights are serving as communications director to U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr., working as a reporter for *The Herald News* and *The Star-Ledger*, and teaching high school history for nine years – the last two at Passaic High School. He will be working with the superintendent on district messaging, overseeing district communications, maintaining media relations and promoting the student and staff accomplishments at Paterson Public Schools.



Concerned Parents for a Better Start honored Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer with their Community Service Award on September 22. In her remarks, Shafer expressed her gratitude for the honor.



A big thanks to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center staff for donating school supplies to Dr. Frank Napier Academy.

A Year Since Maria



Teachers who were recruited from Puerto Rico to teach in Paterson Public Schools were featured in a September 19, 2018 story by *The Record* about people who relocated to northern New Jersey after Hurricane Maria. Pictured is Francisco Gonzalez, an ESL teacher at Public School 5. Alexandra Arroyo, another teacher who was recruited from Puerto Rico, was also interviewed for the story. Involved in the teachers' recruiting efforts were Deputy Superintendent Susana Perón, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Diodonet, Coordinator of Academic Services Taina Pou, Director of Bilingual, ESL and World Languages Lourdes

Garcia, and Director of Culture, Climate & Non-Traditional Programs Theodore "T.J." Best. You can read the [newspaper article here](#).

Get Into the Post

We are always interested in the good work that happens in PPS every day. Let us know about it by:

1. **Writing a few sentences** that cover the five W's (who, what, when, where, and why) in your item.
2. **Sending a clear photo** of the people and/or events in your item as a separate .jpeg or .png attachment
3. **Sending your contact info** to us so we can follow up with any questions.



Send your items for an upcoming issue of the post to <mailto:ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us>.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 3: Board of Education Workshop

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

Oct. 5: HARP Blood Drive

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 5 Colt St.

Oct. 8: Columbus Day

District Closed

Oct. 17: Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

Oct. 26: Staff In-service

1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

**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.