

Paterson Post

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February 9, 2018

PAGT Scholars Experience Real-World Learning at NJPAC



Recently, Ms. Lizandaa Alburg's and Ms. Tai Matthew's eight 8th grade scholars from School 28/Paterson Academy for the Gifted and Talented (PAGT) had the privilege of hearing acclaimed Middle East expert, journalist and author Robin Wright. The students heard Ms. Wright speak at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) during the *New Jersey Speakers Series*. They were captivated by Ms. Wright's inspirational and informative speech and pleased to make connections to current events by using critical thinking skills learned in their social studies and language arts classes. They benefited from the presentation of geographic details, historical context, travel anecdotes and detailed explanations about current events in the Middle East.

The generosity of an anonymous donor helped the students and their chaperones attend this socially poignant event.

Molding Saturday STEAM Solutions at School 18

The integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) was evident as students "Got in gear and Engineered" at School 18. These young innovators engaged in problem solving and critical thinking with a hypothetical social problem. They engaged in the engineering design process while empathizing with a citizen in *City X* (Part of the *Science City X Project*). They defined the problem, conceived possible solutions, developed prototypes, and engaged in collaborative work throughout the iteration process (sharing/testing).



The student scientists used modeling clay as an integral part of this experience by using it to develop prototypes that represented their solutions. They then shared those creations with their peers.

The City X project encouraged "wild ideas" and supported the process of student-directed exploration involving science and engineering practices with cross-curricular connections. The Saturday STEAM Academy will continue to make these natural connections among all disciplines, with the goal of contributing to the development of problem solving and critical thinking skills.

District Engages Firm to Provide 21st Century Energy Systems

Energy Systems Group is launching a district-wide initiative of energy saving upgrades and installations estimated to potentially save the district over 20 million dollars over the next 18 years. The first wave of improvements will take place in 17 schools beginning in July of this year. It is anticipated that these measures will greatly reduce the district's "carbon footprint" while measurably improving the general learning environment.

Some of the technologies incorporated will include digital energy control systems, LED lighting, solar panels, energy efficient combined heat and power units, high-efficiency cooling units and more. Details about the initiative can be found in this [press release](#).

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