

# Paterson Post

April 16, 2018

## Bring on PARCC

School 9 and International High School held PARCC pep rallies to get students revved up for the New Jersey State PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) testing which begins today (testing dates vary by grade and runs through May 25<sup>th</sup>). Acting Superintendent Eileen Shafer also reached out to all families to ask parents and guardians for their help in ensuring students are well-rested and take advantage of our free breakfasts. School 9 is adding an extra incentive via their Attendance Task Force which is led by their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade resource teacher, Ms. Majbour. She enforced the school's "PARCC Into Fun" incentive, which will reward homerooms with the best attendance during PARCC, to a day of fun in their school gymnasium. You can see International High School's pep rally on their school Facebook page. Let's go Paterson!



## Expanding Knowledge & Skills on PANTHER Day



The students of PANTHER Academy enjoyed a departure from their usual routine as they participated in special activities on March 28<sup>th</sup> – dubbed “PANTHER Day”. For the young women, the Girl Scouts of America sponsored a field trip for the students and staff to see the movie “Hidden Figures” at the Fabian Theater in Paterson. In keeping with the Girl Scouts motto to “build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place,” Lorena Kirschner, Girl Scouts Program Director, wanted to provide a real-life example of how women have shaped our world for the better. The movie

“Hidden Figures” is based on a true story of three African American women with brilliant minds who worked at N.A.S.A. This movie exemplified the motto of the Girl Scouts and illustrated how women are capable of breaking barriers to change our world.

PANTHER's young men also took part in a variety of activities throughout the day. These activities included a STEM workshop at Passaic County Community College geared toward “circuiting” that gave the students the opportunity to analyze the basic principles of electricity which can be applied to devices and appliances used on a daily basis. Other PANTHER Day activities included a Tae-Kwon Do class, a wrestling exhibition, and tournaments in basketball and video games. It was a day of fun that helped to develop skills on team building and STEM initiatives.

These PANTHER Academy students are ready to shape the future and thank all involved in these positive, thought-provoking field trips!

## NRC Pirates Win Public Service Announcement Competition

The recent Panasonic KWN Video Competition landed a “Eco-Effect - Best PSA of the Year Award” for a special group of New Roberto Clemente (NRC) students. Each participating school had to produce a 60-second public service announcement (PSA) on protecting our environment. The students at NRC produced a video titled, "Don't Rush to Flush" which focused on the possible effects of flushing prescription medications down the toilet and how this can harm our environment. The video also displays a recommended procedure for properly disposing the medications without harming the environment. Our NRC students' production defeated over 55 elementary, middle and high schools across the U.S. in the PSA category. The students of the NRC Pirate-TV after-school program worked hard on this video for several months and will soon make the video available on YouTube as well as their school website. The following students participated in the Panasonic KWN Video Competition: Masiel Alvarez, Jasmine Guzman, Saleema Muhammad, Cesar Nova, Audry Parella, Darianny Pena, Wilfredo Pena, Jyckell Perez, Alexas Rogers, Yaneris Rojas, Jordan Salas, and Jeremiah Valerio. They will now participate in the KWN “winners weekend” this May which will include exciting activities for all of the competitions’ winners. Congrats to NRC!



## Hallways of Inspiration Gain STEAM



April 11<sup>th</sup> was a special day for School 7 as it held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize the “Hallways of Inspiration” S.T.E.A.M. project. The ceremony opened with a welcome address from Principal Rebecca Cecala who spoke about the benefits of S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and math) and the support received from the school's partnerships with William Paterson University and Apple, which helped to fulfill School 7's initiatives and goals.

Other ceremony presenters included 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Samantha Valenzela, Ahsan Miraj, and Famida Murshed, who shared their thoughts on the project and the impact of S.T.E.A.M on society. This past year, the seventh grade class researched and created a magnificent collection of work on scientists, computer programmers, engineers, artists and mathematicians for display in the school hallways. With assistance from teachers Ms. Gloria Hunt and Ms. Stephanie King, students sharpened their research skills, practiced effective time management, and worked as a team. The nature of the project forged cross-curricular collaboration between teachers.

Additionally, the School 7 STEM Club, under the direction of teachers Ms. Marla Arrington and Ms. Fureeha Malik, shared their robotics skills with the EV3 Rover to the amazement of their peers. The club meets once a week during student lunch periods and the students practice coding and controlling devices through programming. Club members also practice using Swift Playgrounds and Lego robotics technology in addition to mechanical engineering sets, designed to ignite inspiration and problem solving.

After the event, the students and guests were invited to a small reception, as honored guests from Central Office, the Board of Education, and William Paterson University, had the opportunity to explore the “Hallways of Inspiration” and discuss the research with the students.

## DHA Art Club Channels Spring

The Dr. Hani Awadallah (DHA) winter Art Club students sought to channel warm spring days by creating Japanese carp windsocks called Koinobori. The windsocks are flown in Japan in honor of Children's Day on May 5th each year. The carp is used as a symbol because it is a strong, hardworking fish that overcomes difficult circumstances as it makes its way back to its spawning ground. It provides a good example for children to follow. Students also created Japanese tea bowls using clay to round-out their cultural investigation. These ancient clay vessels are used for drinking and preparing tea. Students used pinch pot clay construction to create these simple yet elegant bowls. These projects are currently on display at the school with QR codes that provide an audio tour. The Art Club is coordinated by art teacher, Mrs. Lagunes, with assistance from fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Kalayjian.



## Students Find Meaning in GOPA's Poetry Club

*Student Submission – by Andy Martinez, ES GOPA, Grade 9*



One of the hidden treasures of Eastside's School of Government & Public Administration (GoPA) Academy is its Poetry Club, which meets every Monday afternoon after school. Headed by GoPA ELA teachers Mrs. Monica Rogich and Ms. Ashley Crater, the Poetry Club encourages poetry-loving students to hone their creative skills, as well as explore poets who may not be familiar to them. From Shakespeare sonnets to rap lyrics, the Poetry Club serves as a haven for students who love to write, read and appreciate verse. Students represent the future, and the world is ultimately depending on us. In

addition to our regular school routines, we are busy getting involved in the many clubs and other activities available to us. The teachers who lead the club, Mrs. Rogich and Ms. Crater, are amazing, and we are never intimidated to express ourselves because they encourage us and appreciate our efforts!

While GoPA's English department touches upon writing and expressing themselves in verse, the Poetry Club picks up and runs with that concept. It enables its members to articulate vividly without fear of judgment. A favorite of the group has been Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven," among other Poe classics. The club is not limited to GoPA students, however; anyone can join! Come visit room 22 on Monday afternoons and connect with the wonderful, meaningful world of poetry. As GoPA Principal Mike Olo commented, "It means so much to us when our students love our school experiences. This is what we do here!" For more information, visit the Eastside GoPA website (look under Departments – Language Arts) where you will find poems selected by club members and their original poetry.

## Unforgettable Biotech Day



Thirty HARP Academy sophomores and juniors, along with their science teachers Mr. Sayad, Mrs. Todhe, Ms. Sheikh and Mr. Black, recently attended Biotechnology Day at the Students2Science laboratories in East Hanover, New Jersey. The school's Dual Enrollment and Biology students experienced biotechnology research through hands on experience and actively took part in the following studies: identifying genetic differences between GMO and organic salmon; using yeast to create bio-fuels; finding hidden sugars in foods; and

developing antiviral vaccines. The day culminated with group presentations of published findings. Junior Shawn Adamson described the day as "educational and unforgettable".

## Sharing SGA Experiences from Elementary to College

William Paterson University (WPU) Student Government Association (SGA) officers recently visited School 12 to meet with the school's eighth grade SGA leaders and to share insights about their experiences running WPU's undergraduate organization and about the college experience in general. Guidance Counselor and SGA Advisor Ms. Wilson and WPU Professor in Residence Dr. Golden arranged the meeting and were joined by Assistant Principal (and former WPU SGA President) Ms. Hilbert who recalled some of the highlights from her time in office.



## Around the District



March 27, 2018 – 118 HARP Academy students attended an Honor Roll Breakfast for being on the Principal's List and Honor Roll during the first and second marking periods. Principal White recognized each student with a personalized certificate of achievement. Pictured here are members of HARP Academy's Class of 2018.



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March 28, 2018 – William Paterson University Biology Department Chair Dr. David Slaymaker hosted Professor Sayad and 28 HARP Academy juniors and seniors on a tour of WPU's research facilities including a visit to the greenhouse where students looked at research on testing the resilience of beach grass from the Jersey Shore as well as many other botanical specimens.

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March 31, 2018 – Twenty students from STEM @ JFK participated in “Columbia Splash” – a program that offers a variety of courses to students in grades 8 through 12. STEM students spent their first day of spring break taking courses ranging from Anomalistic Psychology to Congruent Numbers to Japanese Drumming and Bacterial Biotechnology to Network Security to Cancer Pathology. Thanks to Columbia University and STEM biology teacher Danielle Hoffman for helping to make this trip a terrific success!

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School 12 fourth graders participated in Every Kid in a Park Program by receiving an exciting visit from park rangers Molly Zipkin and Kelsey Sirica. The rangers explained the special roles played by the National Park Service in preserving our shared natural, cultural, and historical heritage. Students were given the opportunity to earn an official Junior Ranger badge and receive a free National Park entrance pass. These passes will allow them and their family free access to all federal parks, lands, and waters through August, 2018!

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## Upcoming Events

### **Apr. 16: NJ School Performance Report**

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at the District Offices, 90 Delaware Avenue

### **Apr. 18: P-SEPAC Meeting**

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at School 7

### **Apr. 18: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

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

### **Apr. 19: Report Card Distribution**

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

### **Apr. 24: Report Card Distribution (9-12)**

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### **Apr. 26: Autism Walk to City Hall**

10:00 a.m. at School 2; 11:00 a.m. at City Hall

### **Apr. 26: Report Card Distribution**

(All other K-8) 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

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

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