

# Paterson Post

June 20, 2018

Thank you for contributing to Paterson Post!

On behalf of all of us in the Department of Communications, we hope you have a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

See you in September!

## Robotic Champions from PANTHER and JFK STEM



The Academy of Earth and Space Science (PANTHER) won first place and is the official champion of the NJRC-North Jersey Robotics Competition. The competition included teams from Bergen, Essex and Morris County. The 17th Annual North Jersey Robotics Competition is designed to get students interested, engaged, and excited in robotics. It requires that a participating school design and build a robot to compete in four different challenge events. The ability to design

and build a robot that performs specific tasks is providing students with real life scenarios of potential future expectations in college and/or employment. The fact that the team from the Academy of Earth and Space Science not only accepted this challenge but achieved measurable success by winning the championship demonstrates the great potential of our students. This achievement supports PANTHER's mission which is to "Engage our students in a passionate, personal interest - driven education in the STEM disciplines with a focus on Earth and Space Science by providing them with rigorous, inquiry- riven, project-based learning experiences." The Academy is proud of our team's accomplishment and would like to acknowledge the school's partnership with Passaic County Community College. The students learned a great deal from this partnership and extraordinary experience. Their success demonstrates hard work, critical thinking and teamwork.

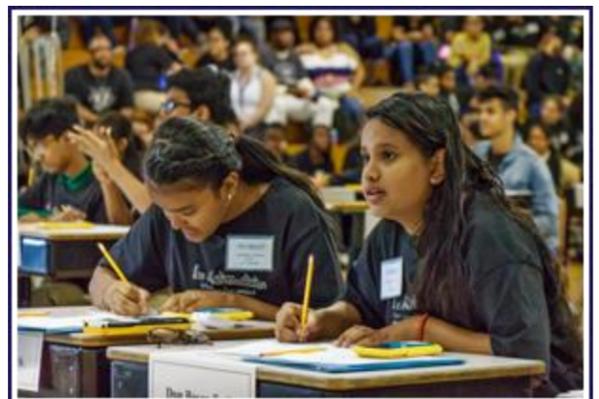
The award-winning JFK Robotics Team (sponsored by the STEM Academy) also competed in the North Jersey Robotics Competition held at Passaic Community College where they placed 2nd overall. The team earned 1st place in coveted Design and Engineering which validates that their concepts, mathematical analysis, and engineering methods were considered to be the most effective. The team also took 1st place in the Obstacle Course Challenge, and 3rd Place in the Backgammon Challenge, the Best Design Overall, and the Most School Spirit.

Over the last ten years the JFK Robotics team, led by staff members Brian Griik and Julie Vysotsky, have amassed quite a number of trophies and honors and have had a long tradition of excellence in engineering and design. The team is focused on being organized, preparing for the rigor of college, engineering, computer programming, digital to analog control, and systems optimization. All members are required to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher, and be upstanding members of their school. Students are encouraged to volunteer and to be involved in the community, and to be leaders among their classmates.

Congratulations to the PANTHER and JFK STEM Robotics teams! We are proud of your accomplishments and now, the future awaits your discoveries!

## Math Olympiad 2018

Over 240 grade 6-8 students from 25 schools participated in the district's 2018 Math Olympiad held on Thursday June 7th at Charles J. Riley/School #9. This year included the addition of Grade 8 Algebra I to the competition. All teams participated in three rounds of competition which varied in difficulty level and time allotment. The winners from each grade level received gold, silver and bronze medals for first, second and third place respectively. Community partner, Mr. Pedro Rodriguez (former Board Commissioner) stressed the importance of mathematics in all aspects of life and provided "Mathematics Superhero" t-shirts to all participants. The Mathematics Department would like to thank Mr. Rodriguez and his wife Graciela for their continued support of this event. Congratulations to the winners from each grade level!



### Math Olympiad 2018 Winners

(in first, second and third place order)

**6th Grade** – Norman S. Weir Lorenzo Hansford, Deon Benbow-Gonzalez, and Joshua Capers; School 27 Mohammed Fahimuzzaman, Emmanuel Payano, and David Gomez; and School 28/G&T Elvis Castanos, Joshua Collado, and Nathaline Madrigal;

**7th Grade** – School 28/G&T Amy Polanco, Raymani Rodriguez, and Shravan Sen; Norman S. Weir Jonah Capers, Anuoluwa David, and Seline Ruiz; Don Bosco Academy Idrak Chowdhury, Sakib Miah, and Mushfiqur Rahman;

**8th Grade** – School 28/G&T Antar Dey, Keilah Pinto, and Tafsir Ahmed; Norman S. Weir Janilynne Mercedes, Miah Mendez, and Aliyah DeJesus; School 25 Lorennys Garcia, Jhordan Metaute, and Mikaela Espejo;

**Algebra I** – Norman S. Weir Stuart Macancela, Bryanna Mejia, and Isabella Castaneda; School 28/G&T Samrin Choudhury, Sherlyn Arzola, Silva Aleena Kibria; and Alexander Hamilton Academy Tracey Gil, Brian Rojas, and Pedro Rodriguez.

## RPHS Students Make Mark at State Teen Arts Festival



A host of talented Rosa Parks students participated this month in the New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival. Six Art students submitted creative pieces and over 20 theater students performed showcase pieces. In addition, the Rosa Parks Vocal Ensemble were honored by placing "Distinguished" at the festival's Vocal Music Adjudication Competition with judges praising their performance as "Wonderful", "Super Cool" and an "Amazing Interpretation." "It was one of the best experience I've ever had as an artist," said Sophomore Vocal student, Joceir Bell. "It was my first competition and we did an amazing job in front of the

judges. I'm so proud of our accomplishment."

The New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival is the statewide culminating celebration of the arts dedicated to inspiring New Jersey teen artists, educators, professional artists and arts advocates from all across the state to unite as one grand and all-inclusive community.

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## Low Cost Lessons with High Yielding Gains at School 21

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, one of School 21's ESL teachers was the lone district representative at the NJBE/TESOL 2018 Conference (NJ Bilingual Educators/Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages) as a workshop presenter. At this conference, the school's very own Jason J. Velante, Sr. provided teaching insights to educators of various New Jersey districts. As a 17-year education veteran, Mr. Velante highlighted some techniques he's used with his own students. As he stated in his workshop, "My role today is not as supervisor to mandate what you should do. I'm just opening my bag of tricks to share what has worked for me in various settings." And, share he did! Whether discussing practices to include multiple student learning-styles or by taking a pie to the face for 100% project participation, some of the suggested techniques were viewed as effective and unconventional. Hopefully these out-of-the-box "high-yielding" methods will be used with our students for a long time.

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## Continued Summer Studies for Culinary Academy Students



Two students from the Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Tourism Academy (CAHTS) at Eastside have been accepted to wonderful summer programs. Angelo Castillo, a freshman at Eastside Culinary Academy, will be attending the Summer Upward Bound STEM Program at Ramapo College. He will be studying a variety of science courses as well as other subject areas during his stay at Ramapo. Angelo has shown enormous potential in his studies at Eastside and his teachers have recommended him to the STEM program. He will spend six weeks during the summer living on the Ramapo College campus and taking specially designed courses in science, math, language arts, computer skills, foreign language, and problem-solving skills. Afternoon and evenings will

be filled with study hall, cultural, and recreational activities. Mr. Castillo will be staying with the program on Saturdays and in the summer throughout his four years of high school.

Additionally, Ohany Vasquez, a rising Eastside CAHTS senior, has been accepted into a rigorous pre-college Summer Business Institute at Washington University (WU). She will be exploring her interest in business by studying in the summer immersion program at WU, earning college credit and learning about the college life. This extraordinary experiential learning experience will prepare Ms. Vasquez to be proficient in the fundamentals of business and enable her to excel as a leader in the new global economy. She will be taking courses focused on ethical leadership, globalization, sustainability and social responsibility.



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## NASA Pilot, Manny Antimisiaris, Visits JFK STEM Academy



On June 8<sup>th</sup>, JFK STEM was honored to be visited by NASA Pilot Manny Antimisiaris who is part of a time that flies the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). STEM Engineering students listened as Mr. Antimisiaris explained the goal of SOFIA was to provide an airborne telescope that can provide observations of objects in space that even the largest land-based telescopes cannot.

The flying observatory is based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, California. The science mission using Infrared spectrum to study many different kinds of astronomical objects and phenomena such as star birth and death, formation of new solar systems, planets in our solar system, and black holes at the center of galaxies.

Mr. Antimisiaris gave detailed explanations of the difficult engineering challenges that NASA had to overcome to be able to fly the 747 based observatory with an open fuselage, which allows the telescope to be able to peer into space. The plane had to be able to survive such conditions without crashing. STEM wishes to thank Mr. Antimisiaris for spending his morning with us.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Preschool Conference

The Department of Early Childhood in collaboration with New Jersey Community and Development Corporation (NJCDC) Department of Early Learning, hosted the 4th Annual Preschool Conference on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Montclair State University. This conference was made possible through generous support from The Nicholson Foundation and The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation. More than 550 preschool staff were attendance! Superintendent Eileen Shafer and Acting Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron both addressed the audience. Preschool staff were trained in Pathways to Mindfulness: Building Connections, joy, and Resilience. Every day in a hundred small ways our children ask, "Do you see me?" "Do you hear me?", "Do I matter?" Their behavior reflects our response. The best things for staff to do to help children become more mindful, is to practice mindfulness themselves.



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## ES SOIT Student is Keynote Speaker at NJDOE Conference



Eastside's School of Information Technology (SOIT) student, Steven Craigies, was a keynote speaker at the 2018 New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) "Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference" at William Paterson University on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Eastside's Special Education Supervisor, Mr. Temitope David, organized the trip which was attended by 28 students, including keynote speaker Steven Craigie. Mr. Craigie, who will be graduating this year, spoke about how his perseverance and grit allowed him to succeed with his studies despite his disabilities. He concluded his speech with one of his original a cappella Christian rap songs to the delight of the audience. Following the motivational student presentations, attendees joined workshops that highlighted strategies to prepare for college and career. Students attending felt empowered while the teachers were inspired from this enjoyable experience. Here's a link to the video presentation: <http://soit-pps-nj.schoolloop.com/spe>

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## Annual Social Studies Quiz Bowl Focuses on American Revolution

The district's Division of Academic Services held the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Studies Quiz Bowl on June 5<sup>th</sup> at International High School. Each year, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students assemble on six-person teams and compete against other schools on a topic stemming from their Social Studies curriculum. This year, 20 schools participated—the most in the program's history – and questions were focused on the American Revolution.

New for this year, an exciting first-round component was added, in which all twenty schools competed against each other at the same time, each answering 100 multiple choice questions. The top eight teams then went on to a single-elimination head-to-head bracket-style tournament. In the end, School 3 finished in first place, with School 5 finishing in second and School 12 in third. Congrats to all of the participants and winners!



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## Around the District



**School 10's Eleventh Annual Career Day** - On Thursday, May 31st School 10 celebrated their 11th Annual Career Day for students in grades 2-8. Students were dressed for success as they welcomed Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer and other guests throughout the day. There were approximately 53 career speakers in attendance. Students were excited as they were exposed to an amazing array of professionals. Students in grades 5 and 6 participated in College Week and researched colleges and careers. The School 10 Titans made a pledge to always do their

best and to continue to grow academically and emotionally.

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**School 29's and School 12's Art Celebrities** – Two School 29 students and one School 12 student recently won recognition for their visual art at William Paterson University's College of Education Professional Development Schools art competition. School 29 Principal Mr. Ventura and art teacher Ms. Elson along with School 12 Principal Mr. McCollum and art teacher Ms. Glone were thrilled with their students' achievements. The works of art will become part of a permanent collection on display at the College of Education. Both School 12 and School 29 are part of William Paterson University's Professional Development Schools network.

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**NRC Teacher Presentations** – New Roberto Clemente Middle School teachers, Azaria Cunningham and Francisco Ocasio, recently presented at two workshops featured at the National Association for Professional Development Schools Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. NRC's Professor in Residence, Dr. Betsy Golden, and WPU Director of Professional Development Schools and Community Partnerships, Dr. Nancy Norris-Bauer, joined Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Ocasio for the first, "The Continuum of Teaching - Building the Next Generation in a PDS." The two NRC teachers also participated in a second presentation, "Reflections on Teacher Leadership in Professional Development Schools: An Interactive Conversation," along with Dr. Keri Haley, Dr. Jana Hunzicker, Jamie Silverman, and Christopher Urquhart. The session shared insights featured in a book released this month (Teacher Leadership in Professional Development Schools) for which Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Ocasio authored teacher reflections.

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**HARP's Rutgers Dual Enrollment Seniors** - On June 7<sup>th</sup>, twenty HARP Academy Seniors joined more than four thousand New Jersey high school students at a Dual Enrollment Awards Ceremony at Rutgers University. Each student earned a minimum of three college credits and a maximum of eighteen college credits. The seniors received a certificate and a university transcript. The college credits can be transferred to any college or university in the United States. Students were accompanied by Mr. Sayad, Mr. Black, and Dr. Mikhailovsky.



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**School 29 "I Wish My Teacher Knew"** – Throughout this school year, School 29 faculty members have met each month to study and discuss Kyle Schwartz's book, [I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids](#). As a culminating activity, William Paterson University Professor in Residence, Dr. Betsy Golden, reached out to the Denver teacher and author, and worked with Principal Mr. Jorge Ventura to arrange a meeting via a Google Hangout forum (an online communication platform). Participants in the discussion each had the opportunity to ask a question of the author, who shared rich insights and suggestions.

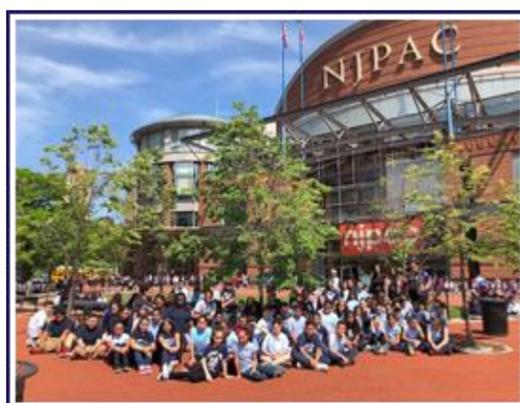


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**STEM's Smart Freshmen** – History has been made by the freshmen class of 2021 by not only excelling as wonderful students, but in the classroom as well. The 10 students pictured here, who are known as "STEM's Freshmen 10", have completed both Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra II as 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Congratulations to this fantastic group of kids who have a great future ahead of them!



**School 24 Visits NJ Symphony Orchestra** – A group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from School 24 visited the NJ Symphony Orchestra for a concert featuring music about “The Animal Kingdom.” Concert repertoire featured an animal theme and gave these students the chance to learn about instruments of the orchestra, musical terminology, and even some conducting tips. Bravó!



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## Upcoming Events

**June 20: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

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

**June 25: Mental Health Forum**

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at International High School

**June 26: Graduation Day**

Last Day for Students

**June 27: NJ Youth Corps Registration**

9:00 a.m. at 5 Colt Street

**June 27-28: Staff In-service**

**June 28: Teacher Job Fair**

4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at 90 Delaware Avenue

**June 29: Last Day for Staff**

**July 9: Preschool Summer Enrichment Program**

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

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