

OUR STUDENTS



OUR STAFF

NEWS



C O N N E C T I O N S

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Providence Public School District (PPSD) bi-weekly newsletter! If you or someone you know misses any of our newsletters, you can find past editions on the <u>District's website</u> in multiple languages.

This week I had the honor of being part of a celebration for recent PPSD retirees. These are educators who served our students and our District for decades and changed hundreds or even thousands of lives for the better during their tenure. It was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do in education, and the impact our work can have.

It was also a reminder of why our work to turn around Providence Public Schools is so important. The improvements we are making today won't just be helping students this year or next year. Improvements like modern buildings and new programs that open multiple career pathways will help our teachers make a positive impact on students for generations to come. It's why I am so OCTOBER 14, 2022



Dr. Javier Montañez, center, Superintendent, with retired teachers during the Teacher Appreciation Event on October 12 at Roger Williams Park.

proud of the effort our team is putting in every day to make our community's <u>Turnaround Action Plan</u> a reality. So to those educators we celebrated this week - thank you from the bottom of my heart for your years of service to our

students. I promise you that we will continue rebuilding Providence Schools with the same energy and devotion you brought into your schools each and every day.

DISTRICT UPDATES

EARLY DISMISSAL 10/19

This is a friendly reminder that all schools will have their next monthly two-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, October 19, for teacher professional development. Middle school families should note that this is different from the regular Wednesday dismissal time for middle school students. Middle schools will be dismissed at 12:40 p.m. on October 19 to allow buses to run on time for other schools that are also dismissed early that day. Families should also remember to double check the schedules at local recreation centers, as some may not open until 3 p.m. because of staffing.

CTE CLUSTER NIGHTS

PPSD's Career and Technical Education Office will be hosting Industry Cluster Nights the next couple Thursdays in October, and one Thursday in November. These Cluster Nights will promote opportunities for 8th grade students in four priority sectors that are identified as high wage/high growth. They include information technology, construction, healthcare, and biomedical science. To learn more about the CTE program, and to look



at the Industry Cluster Night schedule, click on the link below. https://www.providenceschools.org/octe

PPSD FLU CLINICS

Providence Public Schools will be hosting several **free flu shot clinics** in the coming weeks. Please note that online registration at <u>schoolflu.com</u> is required to guarantee an appointment. Walk-ins will be allowed based on available resources. Below is a schedule of upcoming clinics. All clinics will take place in the school's cafeteria.

Juanita Sanchez Complex 182 Thurbers Avenue, Providence **Tuesday, 10/18/22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

DelSesto Middle School 152 Springfield Street, Providence **Tuesday, 10/25/22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Nathanael Greene Middle School 721 Chalkstone Avenue, Providence Wednesday, 11/2/22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

<u>RIPTA REMINDERS</u>

High school families, a reminder that you can find details on any service disruptions to **Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA**) bus routes at: <u>https://www.ripta.com/</u> <u>alerts/</u>.

Students can request WAVE cards from RIPTA by completing the <u>form located here</u>. If you already filled out the form, you do not need to fill it out again.

Interested in learning how to navigate Rhode Island's extensive public transit system? Check out RIPTA's How to Ride Guide available in English and Spanish. Need help planning your trip? Call 784-9500 x2012 or visit <u>RIPTA.com</u> to use our Trip Planner – it's an easy way for riders to plan their trip and get schedule information.

EQUITY IN PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESPECT STUDENT EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



COMPETITION-HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ENDS OCT 15

Just a gentle reminder that October 15 marks the end of Hispanic Heritage Month. There is still time to get your student submissions in. Check out the submission from Jacqueline Bartlett, PPSD teacher and lead project manager on this project. Thirty-two students from **Leviton Dual Language School** and **A-Venture Academy** collaborated to create an annual banner celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. The banner will be displayed each year for the celebration at Leviton. Congrats to Ms. Bartlett and the 32 students who brought the project to magnificent fruition. There are three days left to get those submissions in! Send an email to <u>Nkoli.onye@ppsd.org</u>. In the subject line please write: Unidos. Let's get it!



BLACK MEN IN WHITE COATS Youth summit

Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit will be held on October 29, 2022 at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. More information can be found here. The **RESPECT (Raising Expectations for Student Perspectives, Experiences, Consciousness, and Traditions) Conference** will take place at the Marriott Hotel located on Orms St. in Providence, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., on November 16. The Keynote and Facilitator of this session for 60 middle and high school student leaders will be **Mr. William**



Winfield, one of the most sought-after professional speakers for inspiring and activating students and educators in America. His transparency, honesty and heart-felt desire to inspire people to achieve greatness is what sets William apart. Mr. Winfield is originally from Rhode Island.

AN AFTERNOON LEADING AND LEARNING WITH DR. GHOLDY MUHAMMAD



On November 30, 2022, **Dr. Gholdy Muhammad**, educator and author of *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy*, will facilitate a virtual work session for teachers and other interested PPSD educators. A number of seats will be reserved for members of the community and parents. This will be one of two convening's. The second will

be in late May 2023. Dr. Gholdy Muhammad offers a unique, culturally, and historically responsive approach to cultivating genius and joy in education. This approach is essential for accelerating the growth of all students and uniquely youth of color, who have been traditionally underserved in learning standards, policies, and school practices. She will present her equity framework, called the HILL Model, to help educators develop students' histories, identities, literacies, and liberations. Registration will open at the end of October.

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Our hardworking, talented students are doing amazing things every day. Here are just a few examples.



Outside Learning at at Sackett Street

Students at **Lillian Feinstein Elementary** now have another place to learn - outside in the school's new outdoor learning space! It's a great place for students to continue to be academically engaged. Special thanks to fifth grade teacher Donna Marcaccio, who purchased a composite picnic table through a grant she wrote. A word of thanks also goes out to BIG GREEN JUMPSTART who funded the grant, just one of one thousand that was funded across the United States.



Growing Garden

Students at **Nathanael Greene Middle School** are growing lots of fresh ingredients in their Garden Club. From tomatoes and cherries, to Italian basil and spearmint, students are learning about how to grow different crops and how best to tend to each one.



September Students of the Month

Check out these Fogarty Stars! This amazing group of students were named September Students of the Month at **Fogarty Elementary School**. Teachers and staff said that this group of students are an amazing representation of the school. Each student is chosen by one of the many teachers in the school, who they think exemplify the core values of the school.





Hope High School's Indoor Gardening Rack

Students in Mr. Laniere's class at **Hope High School** are excited about planting their indoor gardening rack! Special thanks to EvanLee Organics and Sodexo USA for helping to make this indoor garden come to life!



September Students of the Month

Check out these Kizirian Stars! This extraordinary group of students were named September Students of the Month at **Kizirian Elementary School**.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Lauro Elementary families, students and staff showed up for our Hispanic Heritage Night! Potluck, dancers, and students singing while Ms. Shaw played the ukulele! What a great night!



How would you describe your job to someone who doesn't work in education?

Our job is to provide the excellent education that our students need and deserve. We show up every day with an unwavering belief in what they can achieve and let them know that they are loved and supported along the way.

Students at the elementary level make a lot of growth each year. What are some of the biggest milestones or accomplishments you see students achieve?

We see growth when the conditions are right for learning. As a Literacy Coach, my job is to help teachers set those conditions in their classroom. Our students are reaching

milestones every single day - some

are big, and some are small. All of them need to be celebrated as we move them towards realizing their full potential.

What do you wish more people knew about being a teacher?

This work isn't just about improving test scores. It's about improving life outcomes for students. Potential is evenly

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Get to know the amazing people who work with our students every day!

Alice Briney-Rockswold Literacy Coach

Located in: Carl Lauro Elementary School Joined PPSD in: 2015

distributed across all Rhode Island students, but we are still seeing gaps in their achievement. With high expectations and the right support, teachers can change the trajectory of their students' lives. Is it hard? Yes. If it was easy, anyone could do it but it's the most rewarding profession you can choose.

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

There is so much to look forward to. This year, we have several exciting ELA initiatives happening at Carl G. Lauro. We are building on our partnership with Books are Wings and Providence Public Library. Last year, we put over 1,000 new

"With high expectations and the right support, teachers can change the trajectory of their students' lives." and signed 427 families up for library cards. We can't wait to visit the library again. We are forming new partnerships too.

> The Rhode Island Latino Book Awards has helped us coordinate several book talks with authors and illustrators our students can see themselves in. I love engaging community organizations to support our work. They have been such assets to our school.

IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- Lost in Translation: Educator knows from experience challenges of multilingual learner WJAR, October 13, 2022
- Mt. Pleasant High School opens a food pantry WJAR, October 6, 2022
- Providence leaders unveil new food pantry at Mount Pleasant High School ABC6, September 29, 2022
- <u>77 hired at Providence Public Schools career fair</u> WPRI, September 27, 2022

AROUND THE DISTRICT



FIRST GRADE CLASS SURPRISED WITH NEW BIKES

Students in Ms. Riordan's first grade class at **Carl G. Lauro Elementary School** were surprised with brand new bikes, helmets, and locks by **Citizens** employees and **L.E.A.D. USA.** Citizens employees built the bikes for the students as part of a team-building activity, in collaboration with L.E.A.D. USA, a consulting firm specializing in human interaction. The students received the bikes for completing their Random Acts of Kindness journals, in which they shared the good deeds they did for others in their community.



CELEBRATING PPSD RETIREES

This week, **Providence Public Schools**, the **Providence Teachers Union**, the **Rhode Island Department of Education** (RIDE) and the **Providence School Board** celebrated 71 long-time PPSD educators who are retiring after many years of shaping students' futures. We are tremendously grateful to all of these educators for the time, effort, and dedication they showed for students each and every day. Best wishes for a relaxing and long retirement!

"It was a profoundly impactful experience for all, where the company's values were able to deliver more than personal learnings; they also provided bikes for some great kids!" said L.E.A.D. USA Founder and President Richard Kuepper.

Once the bike build activity was complete, the students were brought in to see their new bikes. Citizens employees also gave them new helmets and locks for the bikes, and safety instructions were provided by the Providence Bike Riding Police and a local bike shop.



FROM MULTILINGUAL LEARNER TO EDUCATOR

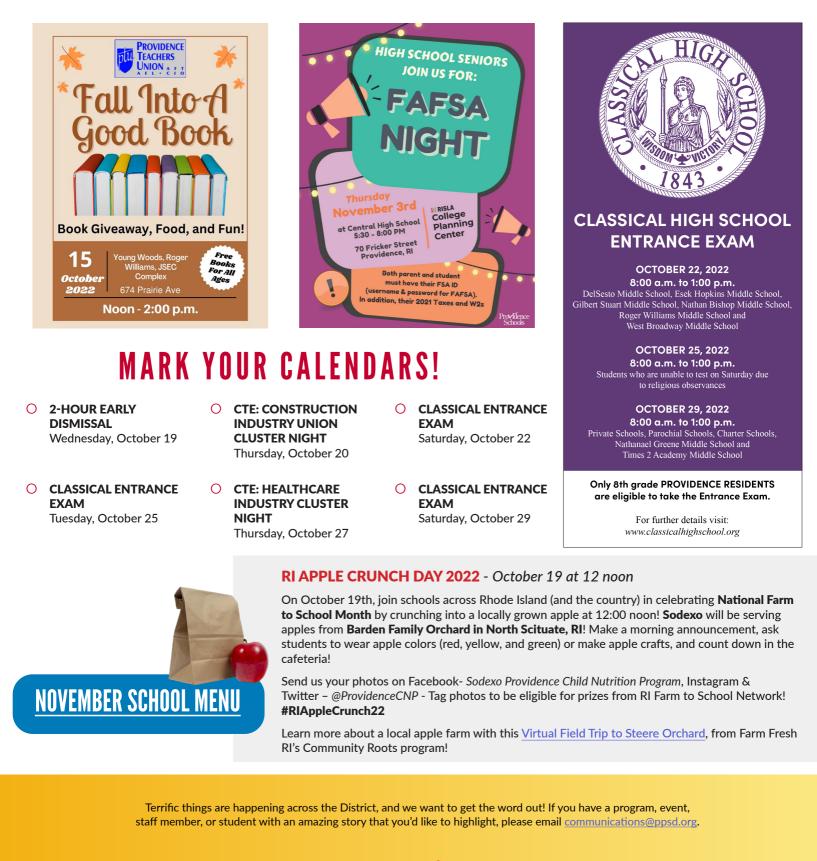
Meet **Vilai Or**, one of PPSD's many former multilingual learners (MLLs) who are now educators! Mr. Or is an Assistant Principal at **Mount Pleasant High School**, is an alumnus of the school, and brings a unique perspective to the role as a former MLL himself. He is happy to be back at his alma mater making a difference in many students' lives. Learn more about his journey and his mission in the video here.





RI ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

October is National Principals Month, and it kicked off in a big way with **Central High School's Renee Walker** being formally recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals as the 2022 Rhode Island Assistant Principal of the Year! Renee is a continuous advocate for Central High School students. Thanks for all you do, Renee!





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