

WELCOME

OUR STUDENTS

Providence Schools

OUR STAFF

NEWS



Students participated in Spring Break Academy during April vacation to help prep for testing.

CONNECTIONS

APRIL 14, 2023

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

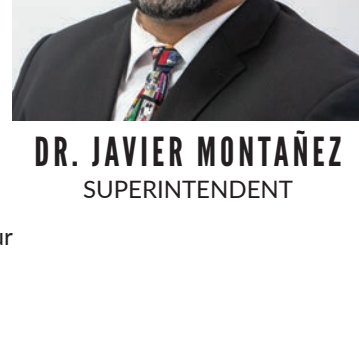
Welcome to the latest edition of the Providence Public School District (PPSD) bi-weekly newsletter! If you or someone you know misses any of our newsletters, you can find past editions on the [District's website in multiple languages](#).

SurveyWorks, SurveyWorks! Thank you to each of you who took the time to complete the survey. We count on your feedback to guide us as we work together to turnaround the District. We surpassed our goal with a 39% completion rate by our families. We could not do without you.

Mark your calendars! PSAT and SATs are taking place April 19th. RICAS English Language Arts (ELA) testing is April 18th-20th for our students in grades 3 - 8. RICAS Math testing will be May 15th-19th.

It was great to see so many of our students enjoying the April recess and participating in our Spring Break Academy. It was a tremendous effort across PPSD to recruit students and staff for the week alongside the teams organizing buses and meals. Students enjoyed themselves throughout the week and learned at the same time.

Lastly, thank you to all who came out to volunteer with Sodexo to distribute thousands of meals across six of our schools on Tuesday. It was rewarding to see all we can do to help our community when we work together.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

EID AL-FITR
(No School)
Friday, April 21, 2023

RICAS ELA TESTING
Elementary: Session 1 Grade 5
Session 2 Grade 4
Wednesday, April 19

RICAS ELA TESTING
Elementary: Session 1 Grades 3 & 4
Middle: Session 1 All Grades
Tuesday, April 18

RICAS ELA TESTING
Elementary: Session 2 Grades 3 & 5
Middle: Session 2 All Grades
Thursday, April 20

SAT / PSAT EXAMS
High Schools
Wednesday, April 19

APRIL SCHOOL MENU



DISTRICT UPDATES

EAT, PLAY, LEARN

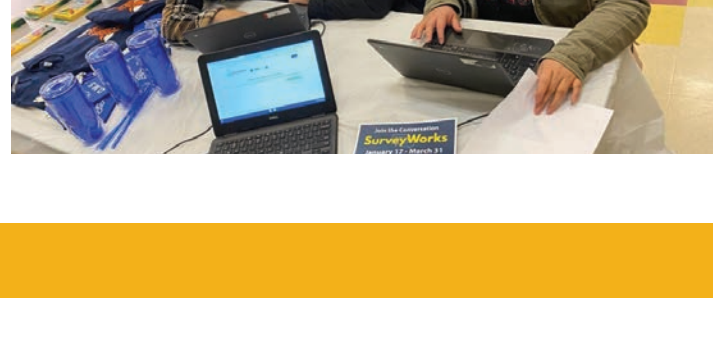
The **City of Providence**, in collaboration with PPSD, is bringing back the popular **Eat, Play, Learn** summer programs for youth this summer. The programs offer free meals, recreation opportunities, and summer jobs. Families can sign up [here](#) starting April 29th, and they can also attend the **Summer Opportunities Fair** at PCTA that same day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to learn more about the programs Eat, Play, Learn has to offer.

SURVEYWORKS UPDATE

We are excited to share that over 39% of our PPSD families completed SurveyWorks this year, surpassing our goal. Thank you for taking the time to give your feedback. It is truly appreciated. Another big thank you goes out to our staff for their efforts in spreading the word about the survey. We look forward to analyzing the results to help best serve our PPSD families.

RICAS, PSAT AND SAT TESTING

A reminder to elementary and middle school students and families that RICAS testing for ELA starts Tuesday, April 18th, and runs through Thursday, April 20th. A reminder for our high school students and families that PSAT and SATs will take place on Wednesday, April 19th. Please visit the [District website](#) for more information about specific dates.



Register here (close April 23)
All PPSD employees welcome!

EMPOWER MEET UP for Educators of Color
Priority seating to every one of color!

DR. CARROLL MEDEIROS, M.D. FACCQ
The month we will focus on personal health, and how best to support our students' well-being.

Everett, Company Stage 9 School
9 Duncan Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

APRIL | 27th | 4:30PM

EQUITY AND BELONGING

emPOWER Meet Up for Educators of Color

Do not forget to register for this month's **emPOWER meet up** being hosted on **April 27, 2023** at 4:30 p.m. at the Everett Company Stage & School located at 9 Duncan Avenue in Providence. Street parking is available on Duncan Avenue, North Main Street, and Jenkins Street. Our guest speaker this month, Dr. Carrol Medeiros, will focus on personal wellness, public health, and how to best support our students' well-being. [Register here!](#) We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact us at equity@ppsd.org. All PPSD educators are welcome to attend.

Equity Boost Grants

Equity Grants enable students and educators to test creative new ideas and innovations that support exemplary teaching and learning, while advancing cultural understanding and appreciation, anti-racism commitments, and understanding of civic engagement and democracy. **Equity Grants** will fund school-based projects between \$500 and \$4900. Learn more in the [Equity Boost Grant overview](#), and to apply for an Equity Boost Grant, click [here!](#) If you have any questions, please contact us at equity@ppsd.org.

Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, May 31, 2023

Join us for part two of **Dr. Muhammad's workshop** on culturally and historically responsive education. Our first session had over 85 attendees and we learned ways in which to engage all of our students, and the value of their lived experiences in education. This session will be via Zoom. PPSD Educators, please register in Frontline, parents and community members, please use [this link](#) to register in order to receive the Zoom information. We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact us at equity@ppsd.org.

CULTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

DR. GHOLDY MUHAMMAD
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORK SESSION

TEACHERS, PARENTS, ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME

MAY 31, 2023

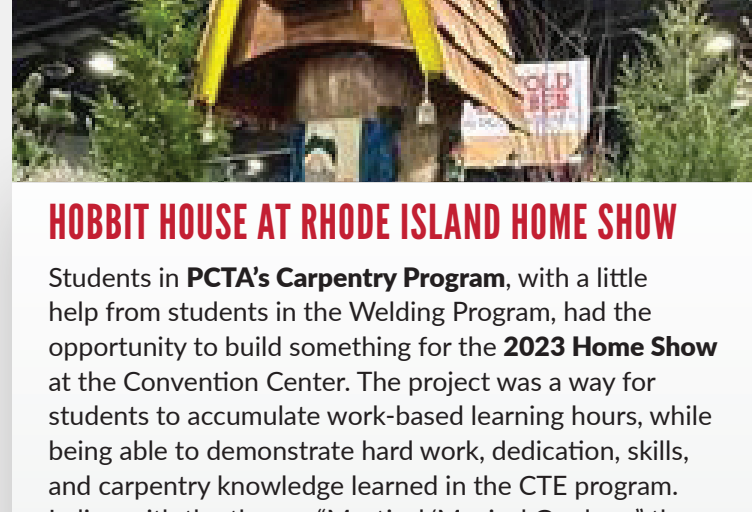
3:45-5:15PM, ON ZOOM

PLEASE REGISTER ON FRONTLINE FOR THIS PAID SESSION. ALL OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK UPON REGISTRATION

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



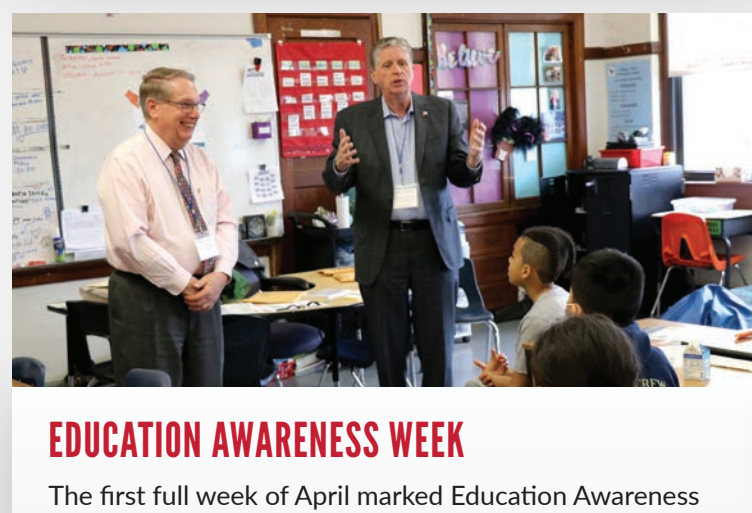
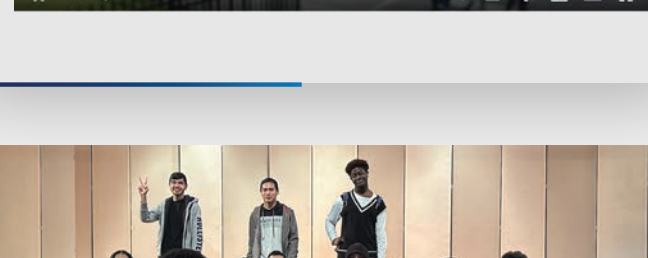
HOBBIT HOUSE AT RHODE ISLAND HOME SHOW

Students in **PCTA's Carpentry Program**, with a little help from students in the Welding Program, had the opportunity to build something for the **2023 Home Show** at the Convention Center. The project was a way for students to accumulate work-based learning hours, while being able to demonstrate hard work, dedication, skills, and carpentry knowledge learned in the CTE program. In line with the theme, "Mystical/Magical Gardens," the students built a number of displays out of wood, creating a hobbit house. Students in the Welding Program helped with fabricating brackets to help with support, and made hinges for the doors. The process took six weeks, and students had the opportunity to work with other Rhode Island high schools, as well as meet new people, network, and discuss potential future job opportunities with vendors at the show. Three carpentry students were chosen to speak at the Home Show meeting in front of the CTE Board of Trustees to talk about their experiences in CTE. Students were even approached by a local organization to see if they could build a playhouse for a child with a life-threatening illness. Great job by everyone, and keep up the great work!



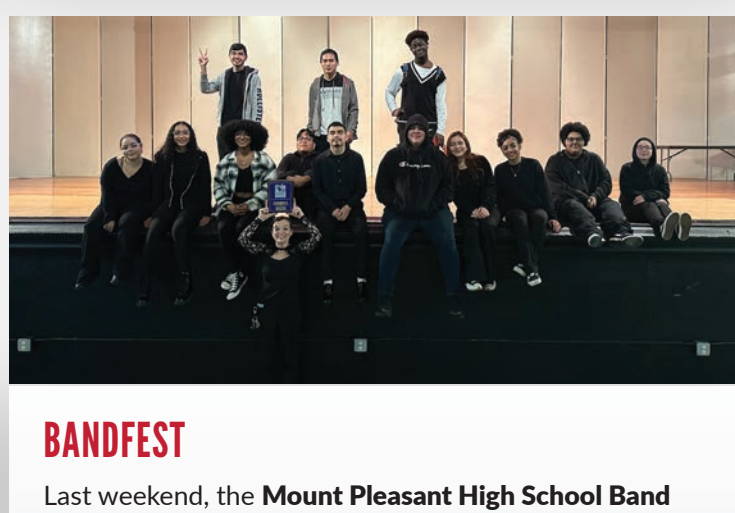
SPAZIANO BEAM RAISING

The final beam in the construction project for the new **Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School** building has been raised to the top of the building. Students had the chance to sign the final beam, along with **Governor Dan McKee, Mayor Brett Smiley, Rhode Island Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, and Superintendent Dr. Javier Montañez**. Students and staff are very excited about being able to learn in the new building once it's finished in the fall.



EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK

The first full week of West marked Education Awareness Week and **George J. West Elementary School** was visited by a number of guests for Junior Achievement RI Leaders Day. It was a day that brought educators, business, and volunteers together to help celebrate Education Awareness Week. Guests included **Governor Dan McKee, Mayor Brett Smiley, Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, and Providence Police Chief Colonel Oscar Perez**. Special thanks to **Junior Achievement RI** for helping make this possible. Thanks to everyone who visited!



BANDFEST

Last weekend, the **Mount Pleasant High School Band** competed at a festival known as BandFest. They received a superior score of 37.5 out of 40. The band also performed with Barrington High School students, and the two bands combined make up a fully inclusive Unified Band, which includes students from the Exceptional Child Services Programs at both schools. Congratulations to everyone involved!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our amazing senior students in the District!

Neveah Seales

Senior, Central High School
MS: Nathanael Greene Middle School
ES: Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School

Ida Faye

Senior, Central High School
MS: Nathanael Greene Middle School
ES: Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School

Anthony Aldana

Senior, Central High School
MS: DeSesto Middle School
ES: Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School



"Get involved! That is the way you have the most fun."

What are your plans after high school?

NS: Next year, I am planning to go to CCRI because it is free, for one. I also want to get those credits so I can transfer to a four year school while saving money. I am not sure which school I am interested in beyond CCRI.

IF: I am still deciding between colleges. It will either be Bryant or Rhode Island College (RIC).

AA: I am still deciding as well. For me, it is between Bates, Middlebury, or Boston College.

How was your Central experience? Why did you choose to go to Central? What will you miss?

NS: I actually didn't start out at Central. I originally started at Classical, then moved to Georgia. Then I moved back to Rhode Island. Central was the closest to my house.

IF: It was the same thing for me. I chose Central High School because it was closest to home for me. I wanted to go to one of the three schools: Central, PCTA, or Classical. I have really enjoyed it. We have a small class. It is only 250 or so. Because of that, we are close.

AA: It's close to home for me, too. I also didn't know much English so I did not know about other opportunities, so I did not apply to any other schools.

What are your extracurricular activities?

NS: All three of us are in Student Council, I think because of seeing Ida's campaign. It inspired me that we can turn this school up and make it way more fun.

IF: We're all in Student Council. So we help plan the events. Right now we are planning our prom. We plan our spirit weeks. Anthony and I are in Book Club, and Neveah and I are in Fashion Club. I played tennis. I liked that. I will miss the community, and the football games, and NUA nights. I have enjoyed Student Council. My favorite event was doing face painting for our classmates before the pep rally. Our pep rallies are fun.

AA: I am part of the Chess Club, NUA, and Student Council.

Which staff member has made a big impact on your life?

IF: Mr. Lacouture, our Math teacher, made a big impact on us. He was someone who you could just go and talk to. He was always there to talk to, even after class. He is funny and kept his class entertained.

NS: I agree. He's a really great teacher. Especially because I was new and he always made me feel welcome.

What words of advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

NS, IF, AA: Get involved! That is the way you have the most fun.

NS: It's not hard to get involved. Once you find your crowd that you want to be around.

What are you most afraid of after graduation?

IF: Not having the real world. In high school, you have to support for yourself. In the real world, you have to fend for yourself.

NS: I agree with Ida. But I am just scared. I feel like I'm not very street smart. I'm afraid I'll end up broke or in debt.

AA: I'd say I don't know if next is up. I am a bit nervous to be the first in my family to go on to college.

IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- 6 Providence schools hand out free meals to students ABC6, April 11
- Eat, Play, Learn: Popular program for Providence school kids to return this summer WPRI, April 4

AROUND THE DISTRICT



COLLEGE DAY AT BROWN

So many PPSD students attended **Brown University's College Day** recently. Students had the opportunity to hear from **Mayor Smiley, Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, Superintendent Dr. Javier Montañez**, and current **University students** and educators about college life. PPSD students had the opportunity to explore different opportunities on campus, and get a glimpse of what college life could be like. Thank you to everyone who made this possible for our students!



SPRING BREAK ACADEMY

A huge thank you to all of our students and staff who participated in PPSD's Spring Break Academy during April vacation. We had so many students participate, to help get them ready for RICAS, PSAT, and SATs next week. Students were very engaged, and the staff made learning fun and helpful for the students. Best of luck to all of our students on their tests next week!



NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

We recently celebrated **National Assistant Principals Week**, and here in PPSD, we are so lucky to have such amazing Assistant Principals. They help to make sure that the school days run smoothly, ensure the safety of our students and staff, collaborate with families, and so much more. We are so thankful to all of the wonderful Assistant Principals that we have here in the District, and we appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for all you do!



FREE MEAL DISTRIBUTION

Sodexo, along with students and staff from PPSD, handed out free meals at various locations this past week for kids 18 and under. Food distribution took place at six of our schools: **Asa Messer Elementary, Gilbert Stuart Middle School, DeSesto Middle School, Feinstein Elementary at Broad Street, Nathanael Greene Middle School, and Roger Williams Middle School**. Each location had an abundance of volunteers, and a great turnout for the meal distribution. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help make this such a huge success!

Terrific things are happening across the District, and we want to get the word out! If you have a program, event, Staff member, or student with an amazing story that you'd like to highlight, please email communications@ppsd.org.

Providence Schools

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