



A ribbon cutting for the District's first four electric buses that were made possible by funding from American Rescue Plan's Electric School Bus Rebates and a RI Energy Grant.

CONNECTIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

DECEMBER 6, 2023

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, and that you were able to celebrate with your loved ones and families. I am thankful for all of our students, families, and staff that make up our brilliantly diverse and multicultural Providence Public School District (PPSD) community.

Recently, I was able to attend a ribbon cutting with **U.S. Senators Reed and Whitehouse, U.S. Representatives Magaziner and Amo, RIDE Commissioner Infante-Green, Mayor Smiley, Councilor AnderBois, and the team from First Student** as we unveiled four new electric buses. Cleaner buses and less emissions in our neighborhoods helps create healthier environments for our students and staff to thrive. I am grateful for our partnerships across government and city to support our students and drive success towards a better future.

This December, I want us to continue to focus on attendance, especially during the holiday season. Let's finish 2023 strong and segway into 2024 with great attendance and participation. By working together and encouraging one another to do our best, I know that we can achieve this goal.

Computer Science Education Week is celebrated from December 6 to 12 this year. The week aims to get K-12 students interested in computer coding. During the second week in December, students are encouraged to take part in an *Hour of Code* that engages students to complete short programming tutorials. At PPSD, we have a P-Tech Information Technology program at **E-Cubed** as well as the CS4RI (Computer Science for Rhode Island) program at **JSEC, Mount Pleasant, Alvarez, and Central High Schools**.

I am looking forward to the coming weeks in preparation for the holiday season. Stay focused, work hard, and finish the calendar year strong!



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT



Alvarez High School Principal Nathan Biah, center, stands with students who are part of the **Alvarez High School Healthcare Academy** during the **School Choice Fair**. Alvarez is one of the District's redesign schools that will be focused on healthcare and finance careers.

DISTRICT UPDATES

DO YOU WANT TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF CIVICS EDUCATION AT PPSD?

Generation Citizen is recruiting for 16 total teachers and students at PPSD schools who are in Civics classes this year, or recently completed last year, who would be able to commit to a 90-minute virtual meeting once per month to center on and elevate student and teacher voices. This will be on a wide range of possible topics, responsive to them, to reflect on and influence the future of Providence's civics education. In addition to building skills and connections, there will be other benefits offered to teachers and students who participate in the council to the end of the school year.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, Generation Citizen is hoping to receive all applications before Wednesday, December 13th (first meeting is planned for Monday, December 20th). [Apply here.](#)

SODEXO LOGO CONTEST

Calling all creative Providence Public School high school students! Join the **Sodexo Logo Creation Contest** and show Sodexo your original masterpiece. Sodexo Providence is looking to create a new logo that reflects the theme 'Rooted in Providence.' Entries must incorporate the name "Rooted in Providence," be relevant to school lunch, and be an original artwork. The winner takes home a prize of \$5000! Submit your design in pdf form by February 26, 2024 to liana.borts@foodsorps.org. The winner will be announced on March 19.

SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR

A big thank you to everyone who came out for the **School Choice Fair**! We were very excited to see our families and to share information about school options for next year! Our schools came out in full force to show our families what they have to offer for students. Thank you to everyone who made this night possible!



Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)



Carnevale Elementary School

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



MOUNT PLEASANT BOYS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

It was a BIG month for some of our soccer teams in the District! A huge congratulations to the **Mount Pleasant High School** Boys Varsity Soccer Team for being crowned Division IV State Champions! Senior midfielder Gavin Claxton scored for the Kilties in overtime, paving the way for the title, the school's first since founding its program in 1970. Congratulations Kilties!



DELSESTO MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

The **DelSesto Middle School Boys Soccer** team also came away victorious as they were crowned Middle School Boys Soccer 2023 Playoff Champions! Congratulations to the Jaguars for an amazing season, and a great championship win!



NATHAN BISHOP GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

For the girls side, **Nathan Bishop Middle School** took home the first place win! They were crowned Middle School Girls Soccer 2023 Playoff Champions! Congratulations to the Cougars for an outstanding season, and a great championship win!



GIRLS ON THE RUN AT KENNEDY

Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School culminated their 9 week Girls on the Run program with their season ending 5k on Sunday, November 19. Thank you to Kennedy Social Worker **Valerie Chase** for leading the nine-week program. Girls on the Run, a national non-profit organization, designs programming that strengthens third- to fifth grade girls' social, emotional, physical and behavioral skills to successfully navigate life experiences.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT E-CUBED ACADEMY



Principal: Dr. Matthew Juda

Assistant Principal: Kerri Giorgio

What makes your school unique?

I think that because our school is so small you have a chance to develop relationships with the teachers. You feel valued by your teachers.
- Maria J., 11th Grader

Everyone knows everyone else, it's like a family.
- Amadou D., 11th Grader

Students at E-Cubed need 4 technology credits to graduate and this school has all sorts of cutting edge technology.
-Jadielynn P., 12th Grader

The community here is special. There are great relationships between the staff and students and everyone wants to make sure you are okay.
- Kemi A., 12th Grader

Kids can get whatever they need at E-Cubed because of the multitude of different personalities and strengths that staff bring to the school. Everyone can find their person who can support their success.
- Ms. Lepre, Art Teacher

The way the staff push you to succeed challenges you to always be better and get through any difficulty you face.
-Bryan H., 12th Grader

We are the perfect mix of a small school with an innovative, high tech curriculum. You can't get lost and you can try and do a lot of new things.
- Ms. Burakowski, Special Education Teacher

The building is small, clean, and has air conditioning.
-Kayleigh M., 10th Grade

The building is small and it looks really nice. The technology is cutting edge.
- Tyler D., 10th Grade

As you know, Computer Science week is this month. Can you describe the Computer Science programs at E-Cubed?

Over the past 3 years E-Cubed has reimagined itself as a CTE High School. All of our students are enrolled in one of our three Information Technology (IT) Pathways. The three pathways that students choose from are Computer Programming, Network or Computer Support Specialist. We have built 2 computer labs- one for software and one for hardware.

All students take CS Discoveries to build a foundation of computer science skills in 9th grade. In 10th grade all students will take Introduction to Computer and Data Science and Work Based Learning. At the end of 10th grade students select their pathway that they will follow during 11th and 12th grade.

Students in the Computer Science Pathway will take AP Comp Sci Principles and AP Comp Sci A. Students in the Networking Pathway will take Networking 1 and Networking 2. Students in our Computer Support Specialist Pathway will take Computer Support Specialist 1 and Computer Support Specialist 2.

We are very fortunate to have relationships with great partners. In addition to having code.org as the curriculum for our 9th grade course we partner with Dell and Microsoft Teals.

What is your vision or goal for your student body for the 2023-24 school year at this time?

The goal is for all of our students to be in attendance 90% of the year or more this school year. All of the students will do their best in all of their classes and that all of our students will take at least one AP course before graduating. Also, we want our students to feel supported, cared about and excited to come to school.

What accomplishments have filled you with pride so far this year?

Our students are just outstanding. Our students show their skills in academics and athletics. We have decreased our chronic absenteeism, we have increased our enrollment in AP courses and we have created more opportunities for ours to contribute their voice to the school community.

Does your school have a mascot or school colors? How does your school show school spirit?

Our school mascot is the Panther and our school colors are Red and Black!

We show school spirit by having spirit weeks throughout the year. Students and staff dress up to show school spirit and students pick the themes. There are also school-wide competitions between grade levels or advisories that happen throughout the year.

Is there anything else you would like us to share with the PPSD community?

In addition to being a CTE High School we also are a P-Tech school. This means our students have early access to college courses, from CCRI for free. The school offers summer classes from CCRI each summer and during summer 2023 students earned 120 credits from CCRI!

E-Cubed has dual enrollment courses at both URI and RIC. We offer 15 AP courses to our students and will be expanding that number next year!



NATHANAEL GREENE COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

Students at **Nathanael Greene Middle School** were able to speak with over a dozen local business owners, professionals, and colleges who attended the school's first-ever College and Career Fair! The students were so engaged in the event, and learned about different kinds of professions and career paths for their future. Thank you to everyone who made this event such a huge success!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **PARENT UNIVERSITY: Providence Promise - An Early Scholarship Program for College & Career**
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
6:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m.
- **PARENT UNIVERSITY: Continuing Education & Job Placement at CCRI**
Thursday, December 14, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **PARENT UNIVERSITY: Responding to Teen Dating Violence**
Thursday December 7, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **HOLIDAY RECESS (NO SCHOOL)**
Friday, December 22, 2023 -
Monday, January 1, 2024



EQUITY AND BELONGING

RESOURCES FOR DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

To help navigate difficult conversations about trauma and world events, we have gathered some helpful resources for parents, families, and educators. Please click [here](#) for the full list of resources.

NEW PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PPSD STAFF

Lessons, Activities and Resources for Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose - Part 2 on January 24th.

The Office of Equity and Belonging is proud to support The Teaching for Black Lives teacher study group, a PPSD teacher-led initiative. On November 15, the study group hosted a Zoom professional learning session for fellow educators, counselors, and administrators. Over 30 staff attended to learn about the Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose, specifically the 13 guiding principles. The study group will run Part 2 of this series on **Wednesday, January 24th, from 5-6:30pm on Zoom**, to continue to explore resources and plan ways to integrate Black Lives Matter at School lessons, activities, and materials. These sessions are scaffolded to be accessible for all grade level divisions and content areas. PPSD staff can register for this paid professional learning opportunity (negotiated district rate) on Frontline.

Bloomboard Equity Micro-Credentialing - [Accepting applications for SPRING COHORT](#). This micro-credential-based certification program focuses on attending to equity. Micro-credentials (“MCs”) are modular, competency-based credentials for professional learning that recognize demonstrated mastery of

skills and prior knowledge. Educators enrolled in the Equity Micro-Endorsement Program will engage in the micro-credentialing using BBI’s online, self-paced, software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform (the “BBI Platform”). Participants will also have access to collaboration tools on the BBI Platform, which they can use to engage with peers and expert facilitators as they work through their micro-credential journey. Upon completion of this course, each participant will be eligible to receive three units of graduate degree credits. Interested educators may also carry this course over to a full Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at one of BBI’s partnering higher education institutions. Please submit applications with the required essay to equity@ppsd.org.

Monthly Lunch & Learns with The Office of Equity & Belonging

The Equity Office welcomed Jonathan Globe Lewis, a community leader and facilitator from Nonviolent Schools RI, to our November lunch and learn. Globe led over twenty PPSD Central Office Staff in discussion centering indigenous history in the United States and the importance of knowing our personal lineage. One participant commented, “Globe did such a great job at engaging the audience and I learned a lot from that dialogue.” Our next Lunch & Learn will take place in January, 2024.

Funding opportunity for equity-focused projects

[Equity Boost Grants](#) are still available and are intended to 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 Boost Grants will fund school-based projects between \$500 and \$4900. [Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.](#)

IT’S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [‘I actually did it,’ says Gavin Claxton on his D-IV title-winning goal for Mt. Pleasant](#)
The Providence Journal, November 13, 2023
- [First Student to unveil first electric school buses on Monday](#)
WJAR, November 27, 2023
- [‘Welcome to the future’: New electric school buses hit Providence streets](#)
The Providence Journal, November 28, 2023

Calling all
“FUTURE CHEFS”
for our CULINARY
COMPETITION

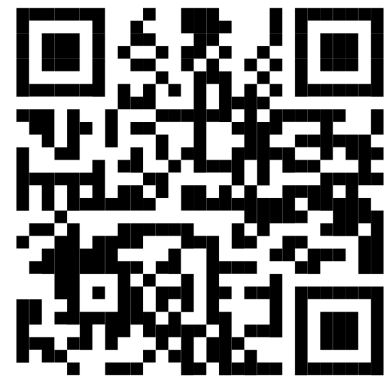


Future Chefs
National Challenge

by **sodexo**

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR
YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR
FAVORITE RECIPE FROM
HOME OR FAMILY
RECIPE**

Lucky contestants from each PPSD school will be chosen as finalists to compete in our contest at Providence Career & Technical Academy on March 9, 2024. As a bonus, the winner of this event will be entered in a Future Chefs National Challenge for some great prizes!



*Student Recipe Submission Portal will Open on
November 6, 2023*

Need a paper recipe form? Just ask Your Cafeteria Kitchen Lead!

PRE-K CORNER



HARRY KIZIRIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Art with young children allows us to see much more than a simple picture. If we observe with careful eyes and ears, we can gain tremendous information about each child. We can share with families what we have discovered and why we feel it is important. We can create enjoyable experiences and support development at the same time; what a masterpiece!

THE ARTS AT FOGARTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Playing with instruments provides your Pre-K student with stimulation and helps to develop their brain's neural pathways. It also helps them to develop their coordination and fine motor skills. Studies have also linked playing instruments during childhood to better self-discipline and confidence, as well as better memory.

The soothing process of painting is often what is interesting to young children. The pleasant feeling of paint over and over again with brushes or fingers is what's important. As children develop, they become more focused on creating representations and conveying ideas.

FIRE PREVENTION DAY AT D'ABATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Pre-K students at **William D'Abate** received a visit from the Providence Fire Department to talk about fire prevention. Keeping students safe is an important part of Pre-K education. Young children need help to understand the dangers of fire and how to respond.

SCIENCE AT YOUNG WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Young Woods Pre-K students are working on science. Science appeals to their inquisitive minds as they try to make sense of the world and how things work. Science activities for early years tap into their curiosity and develop the desire to explore and experiment. This ultimately strengthens their problem-solving and analytical skills.

