

Bailey Elementary School teacher Rachel Greenberg, M.Ed. is surrounded by staff and family after being named PPSD 2024 Teacher of the Year.

CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2024

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

The last month of school is upon us! This means graduations, prom, stepping up ceremonies, final exams, and the final days of school before summer vacation. I'm looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024 and all of their accomplishments throughout their time here in Providence Public Schools. With the school year coming to a close, I wanted to share some exciting things that have happened in the District.

First, I want to give a big congratulations to **Rachel Greenberg, M.Ed.**, on being selected as **PPSD 2024 Teacher of the Year**. Rachel Greenberg, a Bailey Elementary exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator. Her dedication, creativity, and leadership have profoundly impacted our students and staff. We are incredibly proud to honor her as our 2024 Teacher of the Year. I'd also like to congratulate **Central High School** civics teacher **Shannon Gormley** for being selected as one of the **2024 Civic Education Teachers of the Year**. We commend her for all the hard work she's done in helping to give our high school students a valuable civics education. Not only is she a great civics teacher, but she helped oversee the first-ever Mental Health Fair at PCTA that was entirely organized and hosted by PPSD students. With over 400 attendees and over 80 vendors, the event was a huge success.

I also want to acknowledge the many other student successes that have occurred over the past month. **Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)** junior Alexis Lozado won the Welding Competition and qualified for Nationals. We also had engineering students from **Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School** who qualified for a national competition, and biomed students from **Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)** who were honored at the State House. These are no small feats, and I am very proud of the successes of our students.

Lastly, I want to say a big thank you to our PTO Members who do so much for the District. As I near the end of my third year as your Superintendent, I am grateful for the community members who take an active part in continuing to help make our District a better 21st century learning environment for our students. I would be remiss not to also thank our **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**, **District Wide Advisory Council (DWAC)**, **Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council**, and **Student Advisory Council** who like the PTO members dedicated so much time to give back to the school district.

Let's finish the school year strong, and as always, thank you for all of your support.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

DISTRICT UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE! PPSD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Graduations are right around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024! For a full schedule of **PPSD's High School Graduations**, including information about the venues, visit <https://www.providenceschools.org/graduation>.

NEW CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Providence Public Schools is excited to share that **Dr. Paula Dillon** has joined the administration team as Chief Academic Officer. A distinguished educational leader with over twenty-five years of experience, Dr. Dillon brings her innovative approaches and education models to the District.

Leveraging the power of professional networks to drive scalable change, she is a catalyst for transformative education and an asset to PPSD as we work together to achieve the goals of the Turnaround Action Plan. Dr. Dillon has expertise in curriculum development, student-centered pedagogy, assessment design, and professional learning. She brings a wealth of experience with her background as a classroom teacher, Director of Special Education, and Assistant Superintendent in multiple districts.

As the U.S. Cluster Leader for New Pedagogies for Deep Learning Global, she champions Deep Learning, Project-Based Learning, and Experiential Learning aligned with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Dillon also lectures at Northeastern University and is actively involved in grant writing, strategic planning, and leadership coaching. She had her post doctoral fellowship at Stanford University. She holds an Ed.D. in Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning from Northeastern University, as well as a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, a M.Ed. in Special Education, and a B.S. in Secondary Social Studies, all from Providence College.

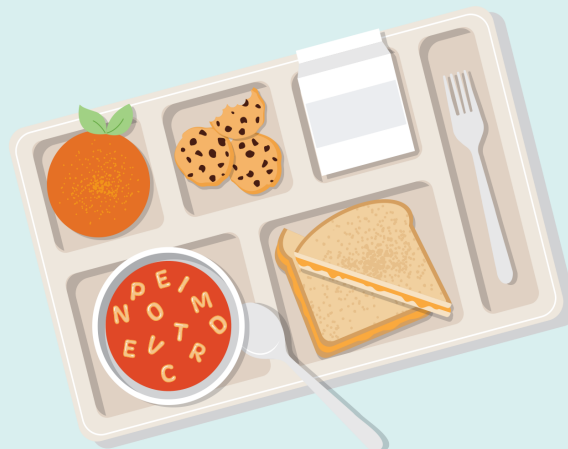
NATIONAL ITALIAN EXAM AWARDS

Many of our bilingual and trilingual students at **Nathan Bishop Middle School** distinguished themselves on the National Italian Exam. We want to recognize the following students on their achievements:

- Iris Nicolas Rodriguez, Silver Medal
- Hector Camilo, Silver Medal
- Fiona Hughes, Gold Medal, 99th percentile
- Violet Jordan-Weis, Silver Medal
- Ashley Mercado, Silver Medal
- David Sanchez-Zamudio, Silver Medal
- Gabriela Garcia Gerardo, Silver Medal

Several other students also received achievement certificates for scoring well on the exam. The best students at the state level will attend a gala dinner in June and will receive additional awards from the Rhode Island Teacher of Italian association. Congratulations to all students on their achievements!

**FREE
SUMMER
MEALS!**
¡COMIDA DE
VERANO
GRATIS!



Beginning June 25th! ¡A partir del 25 de junio!

For teens and kids, 18 and under. Call 2-1-1 for more information.
Para jóvenes y niños, menores de 19 años. Llama 2-1-1 para más info.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The ability to serve at these sites may be subject to change due to staff availability and inclement weather, dial *211 for daily updates.

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SUMMER AT PROVIDENCE SCHOOLS

Providence Public School District has an exciting summer ahead with partnership programs through the **City of Providence's Eat Play Learn** Initiative that will take place in including:

- Inspiring Minds (Rising Pre-K)
- Boys and Girls Club (Rising Grades K-5 + 6-8)
- Generation Teach (Rising Grades K-5 + 6-8)
- Sylvan Learning Center (Rising Grades K-5 + 6-8)
- Teatro Ecas (Rising Grades K-5- + 9-12)
- Beat the Streets (Rising Grades 6-8)
- Onward We Learn (Rising Grades 6-8 + 9-12)
- PASA (Rising Grades 6-8 + 9-12)
- SeaPerch (Rising 9th Grade)
- Brown Pre-College Program (Rising Grades 9-12)
- College Visions (Rising Grades 9-12)
- DownCity Design (Rising Grades 9-12)
- New Urban Arts (Rising Grades 9-12)
- Young Voices (Rising Grades 9-12)

The District will also be hosting 3rd, 6th and 9th grade transition programs as well as summer credit recovery programs. A-Venture High School, the Multilingual Learners program, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) will also be hosting a summer program. For a complete list, and to see how you can join, please see our website at www.providenceschools.org/summer.



RHODE ISLAND CIVICS DAY AWARDS

Providence Public School District students received six top awards on **Generation Citizen's Rhode Island Statewide Civics Project Showcase** during Rhode Island Civic Day on May 17. Students presented their community based experiential civics projects to peers, community members, and local legislators. Congratulations to all students who participated!

- **Grassroots Change Award:** Alvarez High School
- **Action Award:** Central High School
- **Top High School Project Award:** 360 High School
- **Top Middle School Project Award:** Gilbert Stuart Middle School
- **Student Change Maker:** Karriana Phoeun, Senior, PCTA
- **Teacher Changemaker Award:** Caleigh Rockwal, 360 High School
- **Civics Teacher of the Year:** Shannon Gormley, Central High School

8TH GRADE STEPPING UP CEREMONIES

Mark your calendars for the 8th grade stepping up ceremonies!

West Broadway Middle School	Tuesday June 18	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	PCTA, 41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
Gilbert Stuart Middle School	Thursday, June 20	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	PCTA, 41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
Nathanael Greene Middle School	Thursday, June 20	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	PCTA, 41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
DelSesto Middle School	Friday, June 21	4:00-5:30 p.m.	PCTA, 41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
Esek Hopkins Middle School	Monday, June 24	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Hope High School, 324 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906
Roger Williams Middle School	Monday, June 24	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	PCTA, 41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
Nathan Bishop Middle School	Monday, June 24	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Hope High School, 324 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906

CELEBRATING SENIORS

Suri Carrera

Senior, Central High School

Valedictorian for the Class of 2024

College: Boston University

Major: Biology



Suri will be attending Boston University in the fall and wants to major in biology in the hopes of becoming a plastic surgeon. She loves helping people, and says that being bilingual is so important in being able to help others, especially if they are not from here. Suri chose BU because she felt that it had more opportunities for her in the medical field, and she likes the city of Boston. Something she would advise incoming Central High School freshmen is to focus on your education and your future. Suri acknowledges that school is not for everyone, but knowledge is power, and she recommends that everyone stays focused. During her time at Central, she was enrolled in book club and she also used to play basketball. Originally from Guatemala, she completed 136 hours of community service in her home country assisting in a school's kindergarten classroom.

Naydelin Gonzalez

Senior, Central High School

Salutatorian for the Class of 2024

College: Providence College

Major: Neuroscience



Naydelin will be attending Providence College in the fall and intends to be a neuroscience major. Her plan is to do lots of internships, hopefully study abroad, and build on her resume. Naydelin said it was her first chemistry class that she had at Central that first sparked her interest in science and medicine. She is a first generation student, and wants to be able to help others who may struggle living in a new country getting medical help due to language barriers. Naydelin's dream is to one day return to her parents' home country of Guatemala to be able to help the sick there. Something she would tell incoming Central High School freshmen is to really put yourself out there and to ask questions. Know that it's okay to fall sometimes, because you can always learn from there and bring yourself back up. During Naydelin's time at Central, she did an internship at Kent Hospital where she was able to shadow doctors and attend meetings. She also did New Urban Arts which helped her to build on her communication skills and network with others.

Chanhsy Sibunroeng

Senior, Providence Career & Technical Academy

Valedictorian for the Class of 2024

General Dynamics

Electric Boat



Chanhsy plans to go into the workforce after graduating from PCTA, and will be working full-time at General Dynamics Electric Boat as a welder. He felt that the work pathway was the best fit for him. Chanhsy chose to go to PCTA for high school because there are a lot of great opportunities; lots of hands-on experience. Something he would tell incoming PCTA freshmen is to take advantage of the opportunities at the school. He's part of the co-op program at Electric Boat, so instead of going to PCTA during welding days, he would go to Electric Boat and get paid. He encourages freshmen to take advantage of their tech area, to practice everyday, and try to be your best.

Eliam Tejada

Senior, Providence Career & Technical Academy

Salutatorian for the Class of 2024

College: University of Rhode Island

Major: Engineering



Eliam is going to the University of Rhode Island in the fall to study mechanical engineering. He had other colleges he was deciding between, but he ultimately chose URI because of the engineering program there. Eliam has been interested in both pre-engineering and law since middle school, and was trying to decide between the two going into high school. He chose to focus on engineering, which is one of the reasons he chose to attend PCTA. During his time at PCTA, Eliam has learned so many things. He says the program he is taking to help him with his English is helping him a lot. He would tell incoming PCTA freshmen to be patient. There are so many things that they need to learn, and they will get help if they ask the teachers for it. Eliam says it will be harder if they don't ask for help, and encourages them to always ask for it when they need it. During his time at PCTA, Eliam played baseball.

Joice E. Sousa Varela
 Senior, Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School
 Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
 College: Emmanuel College
 Major: Nursing

Joice plans on going to Emmanuel College to study nursing. Her dream is to become a travel nurse, as she has always loved to travel and loves helping people. While excited to graduate, Joice is a little nervous about the college experience, as she is the first in her family to go to college. She chose Emmanuel because it seemed like the best fit for what she was looking for, and it's not too far away from home. Something Joice would tell incoming Alvarez High School freshmen is that you have to work for everything. She advises not to sit around and wait for something to come to you, you just need to go for it. Ask for help, always talk to your teachers. Joice believes choosing Alvarez for high school was the right choice, saying she has great friends and had some great teachers.



Claudia A. Gonzalez Michel
 Senior, Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School
 Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
 College: URI or Roger Williams
 Major: Pre-Med or Biology

Claudia is a dual enrolled student at CCRI, but she does plan on going to a four-year college in the fall. She's deciding between the University of Rhode Island and Roger Williams University, and wants to study pre-med or biology. Claudia said one of the biggest factors in choosing where she wants to go to college is the financial aid aspect, but also to make sure that whichever school she chooses will take her credits from CCRI, in which case she will have already completed her freshman year of college. One of the reasons Claudia chose Alvarez for high school is that it's a small school, and the teachers are always there to help. She really likes the one-on-one connection with the teachers and staff. Something Claudia would tell incoming Alvarez freshmen is to keep going and to always strive for more. As mentioned, the teachers are always there to help. During her time at Alvarez, she has participated in a myriad of extracurricular activities, including the Onward We Learn program, being part of and working at the Boys and Girls Club, and playing softball.



Jayeola Ilori
 Senior, E-Cubed Academy
 Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
 National Guard

Jayeola plans on joining the National Guard after high school. After completing the 10-week basic training, she hopes to return home and attend Rhode Island College where she wants to study nursing. Jayeola knew that she wanted to go into the National Guard ever since she attended a career fair at one of her schools, and spoke with someone from the National Guard. She had a couple local options for college, but ultimately decided that Rhode Island College was the best fit for what she was looking for. Jayeola chose to attend E-Cubed for high school because, upon arriving in the United States from Nigeria, she felt that the size of the school was the best fit for her. She also lived close to the school. Something that Jayeola would tell incoming E-Cubed freshmen is to always persevere and try your best. When she came to E-Cubed, she was very shy, but in 11th grade, she began to open up more, and liked how the school felt like a little community. During her time at E-Cubed, she was part of the debate team, but stopped during her later years, as she is a dual enrolled student at CCRI.



Julisa Suchite
 Senior, E-Cubed Academy
 Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
 College: College of the Holy Cross
 Major: Undecided

Julisa will be attending the College of the Holy Cross after high school, and is undecided on what she wants to major in, but she knows she wants to minor in secondary education. She said the college application process had a lot of deadlines, but she has a brother who is graduating from Holy Cross, and while she had other college options to choose from, she decided to attend Holy Cross. Julisa chose to attend E-Cubed Academy for high school because it's a small school, the teachers are wonderful, very student-oriented, and they care about the students. Something that Julisa would tell incoming freshmen is to listen to your teachers and always try your best. During her time at E-Cubed, Julisa was part of the debate team and the soccer team, and she hopes to become involved with a debate club at Holy Cross if it's offered, and to run track.



CELEBRATING SENIORS

Maria Gutierrez
Senior, Hope High School
Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
College: Rhode Island College
Major: Nursing

Maria is planning to go to Rhode Island College in the fall to study nursing. She said she was deciding between Rhode Island College for nursing and the University of Rhode Island for mechanical engineering. Maria said it was a tough decision to make, since she was interested in both the engineering and nursing fields, but decided from a financial standpoint that Rhode Island College was the best fit for her. She also considered Norwich University in Connecticut, but figured she would probably have to go in as a cadet, since it's a school that has a focus on military. She is part of the JROTC program at Hope, so she was trying to decide if the military was something she wanted to continue during her college years, but decided to revisit joining the military down the road. Maria said she chose to attend Hope for high school because it was the closest school to her house, and that was important to her. She moved here from New York during her freshman year of high school, and finished out the year remotely through her high school in New York since it was during COVID, and she started at Hope her sophomore year. Maria says that Hope has a big Hispanic community, and she's Hispanic, having been born in Venezuela, so she said it was easy to acclimate herself when she started school at Hope. Something she would pass along to incoming Hope High School freshmen is to be open minded and try new things. During her time at Hope High School, Maria participated in JROTC, softball, volleyball, culinary, and she did a little boxing. She said she loved participating in culinary, especially making pastries.



Arlanis Volquez
Senior, Hope High School
Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
College: Bryant University
Major: International Business

Arlanis will be attending Bryant University in the fall and is going to study International Business. She said her dad is the one that got her really interested in business because he's a landlord, and she started doing more research on business, and decided it was something she wanted



Arlanis Volquez continued

to pursue. Arlanis got into several local colleges, but she knew that Bryant was a big university for business, so she decided that it was the best fit for her. She was originally attending Mount Pleasant for high school, but upon attending an open house with her younger brother who was going to Hope, she decided to transfer there because she liked the environment a lot better when she was walking around and looking at the school, and also because it would be easier for both her and her younger brother to be dropped off at the same school. One thing she would pass along to incoming freshmen is to be as social as you can because that's how you make connections. During her time at Hope, Arlanis was the captain of the girls tennis team, a member of the prom committee, and was also a part of student government.

Sebastian B. Connolly
Senior, Classical High School
Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
College: Harvard University
Major: Neuroscience

Sebastian will be attending Harvard University in the fall, and as of right now he plans on studying chemistry. He had a couple of different options for college next year, mostly in the Boston area, but in the back of his mind, he always knew it was Harvard. Chemistry interested him after he took a couple of science classes during his time at Classical, including AP Chemistry. Sebastian liked how he was able to use math in a more applied way, and he likes that chemistry is a more conceptual science. Sebastian chose Classical for high school because in terms of educational outcome, it's comparable to private school. He was also very much drawn to the community; he had heard from a Classical alum that the people at Classical were great and that you had a lot of opportunities for self-driven learning. He feels the energy he got from the alumnus, the kind of pride, school spirit, and the passion for being here really excited him. Something that Sebastian would pass on to incoming Classical freshmen is to take advantage of all the opportunities Classical has to offer: academic, athletic, and especially social. During his time at Classical, he did a little bit of tutoring, was a part of the Classical newspaper club as a writer, editor, then became a chief editor. He says the newspaper club is very much a team effort, emphasizing Classical's collaborative spirit.



Riley J. Hewitt

Senior, Classical High School
Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
College: Vanderbilt University
Major: Economics



Riley will be attending Vanderbilt University in the fall, and is leaning toward studying economics, but isn't quite sure if that's what he wants to major in. He knew that he wanted to get out of Rhode Island for college to experience someplace new, and after weighing all of his options, he decided Vanderbilt was the best choice for him. Riley chose to go to Classical for high school because he loved the student environment and how it draws all different kids from different backgrounds from different parts of the city. He likes that it's a super close-knit community. He said if he had the chance to do it again, he would 100% choose Classical again because he had a really great experience there. One thing that Riley would pass on to incoming Classical freshmen is to advocate for yourself. With a school as big as Classical, and not the highest administrator-to-student ratio, you really have to go out of your way to ask somebody for help, and he thinks it's a good skill to learn for life too, as not everything will always be given to you. He also encourages them to step out of their comfort zone and try new things because high school is the perfect time for that. During his time at Classical, Riley played baseball all four years, was part of the marching and concert band as a drummer, and did some math tutoring.

Grace Bautista Dygert

Senior, A-Venture Academy



Grace is a dedicated and ambitious senior who has truly made the most of her high school experience. Taking full advantage of the dual enrollment program at CCRI, she has excelled in her college courses, earning straight A's. Her commitment to her studies has not only demonstrated her academic prowess but has also provided her with valuable insights into her future career path. Through her time spent studying psychology, Grace has discovered her passion for understanding the human mind and behavior. With her exceptional grades and newfound clarity in her aspirations, Grace is poised to pursue a fulfilling journey in the field of psychology, where her intellect and compassion will undoubtedly make a profound impact.

Israel Abimael Ajqui Morente

Senior, A-Venture Academy



Israel's journey leading up to A-Venture graduation has been extraordinary. His determination, perseverance, and resilience in the face of challenges are nothing short of inspiring. When the path he chose may have been unconventional, his achievements speak volumes about his character and commitment to education. Graduating from a non-traditional school as an over-age and under-credited student is a testament of his unwavering dedication to rewriting his story and seizing every opportunity for growth and learning. Israel has defied the odds, overcome obstacles, and emerged stronger and more determined than ever before. Throughout his time at A-Venture, he has not only gained knowledge and skills but also invaluable life lessons that will serve him well in the years ahead. He has discovered the power of resilience, the importance of perseverance, and the limitless potential that lies within him. As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, he should know that his journey does not end here; it is merely the beginning of a new adventure filled with endless possibilities and opportunities. Israel should keep striving for greatness, continue to pursue his passions, and never lose sight of his dreams. As he walks across the stage to receive his diploma, he is not only celebrating a significant academic achievement but also a triumph of the human spirit. His graduation is a testament of his courage, determination, and unwavering commitment to success.

Cristian Caceres

Senior, 360 High School
Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
College: University of Rhode Island
Major: Computer Science



Cristian is very excited about his future after high school. He will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall, and plans to major in computer science. Cristian knew he wanted to stay close to home, so he applied to local colleges, and was accepted to 12 colleges altogether. He chose to attend 360 High School because, upon moving here from the Dominican Republic in ninth grade, he wanted to stay connected with his cousin, and felt that 360 fit the vibe he was looking for. One of the main lessons he's learned throughout his time at 360 is to take it easy during freshman year. Don't tire yourself out too soon. Never procrastinate on your homework

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CELEBRATING SENIORS

Alexa Baten Ademan
Senior, 360 High School
Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
College: University of Rhode Island
Major: Doctorate Program



Alexa will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall in pursuit of a doctorate program. She knew she wanted to stay local for college, and URI is one of her dream schools. Alexa said she's found a lot of support and comfort in 360 High School. Something that she's learned during her time at 360 is that it's crucial to prioritize grades, but not to an extent where you lose sight of the present. Stay in the moment and understand the importance of balance. While attending 360 High School, Alexa served as President of the National Honors Society where she organized fundraisers for various programs, assisted other programs, and encouraged her peers. She also played on the volleyball team. While she's excited to graduate and move on, she also says she's a bit nervous, but she's confident that she'll be able to navigate through the next phase of her life.

Cristian Caceres, continued from page 7

- it's always best to get it done right after school. Always try your best, not only academically, but also in making your family proud. During his time at 360 High School, Cristian played on the volleyball team, and the team has a record of 8-1. He also enjoys playing basketball and soccer, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is very excited to graduate and move on, saying it's especially significant because he's the first person in his family to graduate high school in the United States.

Emily Rinda
Senior, Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)
Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
College: University of Rhode Island
Major: Computer Science



Emily is the proud Valedictorian at Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex for the school year 2024. She is a member and recruiter for the Computer Science program, a member of the National Honor Society, and also part of the Technology Student Association Club. Emily plans on attending the University of Rhode Island and was accepted into the Talent Development program. She will continue studying computer science because she enjoys problem-solving and enjoys taking on new challenges. Emily looks back on her high school experience and says her friends and staff at JSEC have helped push her out of her comfort zone. She has not only learned, but also grown as a person and can't wait for the next step in her journey.

Tiffany Huynh
Senior, Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex (JSEC)
Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
College: CCRI
Major: Computer Science



Tiffany is the Juanita Sanchez High School Class of 2024 Salutatorian. She will be attending Community College of Rhode Island in the fall and continuing her study of Computer Science. Tiffany is also interested in exploring graphic design at CCRI. She wants to illustrate or design and be able to bring things to life. She has been at JSEC for the last four years and has grown more and more confident in herself. When Tiffany feels her confidence waver, she internally tells herself to "get over it" and moves on. Tiffany is excited for what the future holds for her.

Faith Mitchell

Senior, Mount Pleasant High School
Valedictorian for the Class of 2024
College: Undecided
Major: Pre-Med



Faith is the Valedictorian of the Mount Pleasant Class of 2024. She is a member of the Rhode Island and National Honor Societies, the captain of the Cheer Team, a partner on the Unified Basketball team, a member of the Cross Country and Outdoor Track and Field teams, and a member of the Ski Club. Faith is also a member of Student Advocate Council, Project Delegate, and Student Government.

Last year, as a member of the Music Pathway, Tri-M Music Society, and the Mount Pleasant Chorus, Faith was able to be on the first Rhode Island Band and Chorus team to represent Rhode Island in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. She wants to study Pre-Med, and is undecided on where she will spend her next four years.

Anthony Mosca

Senior, Mount Pleasant High School
Salutatorian for the Class of 2024
QuestBridge Finalist
College: Boston University
Major: Teaching



Anthony is the Salutatorian of the Mount Pleasant Class of 2024. He is the captain of the boys Cross Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track and Field teams, and a leader on both the Unified Basketball and Volleyball teams. Anthony is in the Mount Pleasant Teacher's Academy, and is currently doing a Teacher Academy internship at Lillian Feinstein Elementary School at Sackett Street.

Anthony is a member of both the Rhode Island and National Honor Societies, as well as a member of the Upward Bound program. He cares a great deal about the Redesign of Mount Pleasant, and is a member of the Community Advisory Board and Mount Pleasant Redesign team. Outside of school, he is a member of the Student Advisory Council. Anthony is also a QuestBridge Finalist. He will attend Boston University in the fall on a full four year scholarship to study teaching.





EQUITY AND BELONGING

STUDENT EQUITY SUMMER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (SESLA)

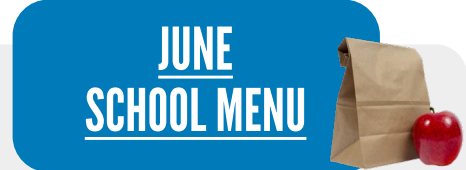
SESLA is a FREE 9-Day equity leadership institute for R.E.S.P.E.C.T. student leaders. It is designed to bolster students' critical thinking, leadership, advocacy, literacy and public speaking skills. Through guided programming, SESLA equips young leaders with the tools and knowledge necessary to create impactful change in their communities. This Academy will take place from August 13, 2024 through August 23, 2024 at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. It is open to up to 40 RESPECT students. Permission slips have been distributed to schools and will be accepted on a first come basis. The Academy is free and transportation will be provided. Each participant with at least 90% attendance, will receive a small stipend at the end of the Academy. Access the link to the parental permission slip in English [HERE](#) and in Spanish [HERE](#). Parents may contact us at equity@ppsd.org for more information.



BUDGETING PROJECT LEADS TO MUSEUM VISIT

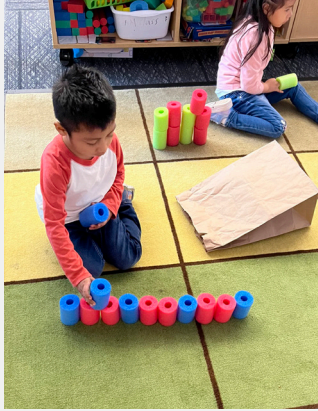
In partnership with **Brown University** and the **Rhode Island Foundation**, all PPSD 8th grade students are visiting the **Boston Museum of Science** this month! PPSD Middle School students participated in Power to the Pupil (P2P), a multi-stage event, where they engaged in a series of democratic discussions and voting activities to determine where \$100,000 from Brown's **Fund for the Education of the Children of Providence** should be spent. During the participatory budget project, students decided that the money should support educational field trips including the museum visit.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- [Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\) Meeting](#)
Monday, June 10, 2024
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- [School Board: Finance Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
- [Juneteenth \(No School\)](#)
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
- [School Board: CTE Committee Meeting](#)
Thursday, June 20, 2024
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
- [Last Day of School](#)
Monday, June 24, 2024
- [School Board: Regular Meeting](#)
Wednesday, June 26, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

PRE-K CORNER



GARDENING AT KIZIRIAN

Students have been learning all about gardening and insects in their classes! They created binoculars and used them to go on an insect hunt on the playground! They found ants, butterflies, and bees. They are anxiously awaiting their own caterpillars to hatch in their classrooms!

PATTERNS AT SPAZIANO

Students at Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School are working on patterning. Identifying patterns are important in later seeing mathematical relationships and understanding number operations. Pattern awareness helps with spatial thinking and directionality which is so important for young children in both math and reading.

WORKING WITH PLAYDOH

Students at Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School work with playdoh, which not only strengthens fine motor coordination, but also fosters creative thinking and communication.

PLEASANT VIEW BUTTERFLIES

Students at Pleasant View have been learning about insects over the last several weeks. This included a hands-on experience watching caterpillars transform into butterflies! The class released their butterflies last week, but not before getting a chance to hold them.

GOOD NEWS:

- [WaterFire basins are lit for the first time in the 2024 season; celebrate Learn365RI WUN, May 12, 2024](#)
- [Rhode Island Students Learn, Compete, and Explore Careers in Shipbuilding Fox, May 7, 2024](#)
- [Rhode Island students participate in maritime welding competition WJAR, May 6, 2024](#)