



E-Cubed Academy seniors are congratulated by underclassmen during their Decision Day Parade.

CONNECTIONS

MAY 17, 2023

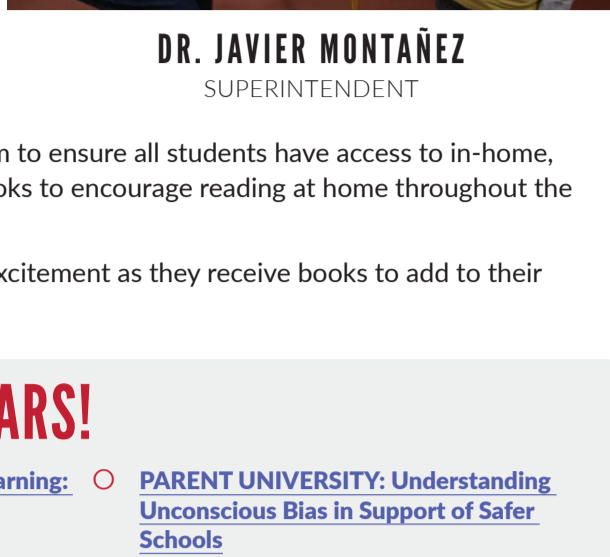
SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

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](#).

Providence Public Schools has committed to increase achievement through being an actual national model of a "Literacy First District." The District is pairing up with Scholastic Education to provide great opportunities for students going into this summer:

- Students participating in the **Summer Learning Program** will participate in **LitCamp** which will provide engaging summer instruction. LitCamp will be the springboard to a 2023-2024 school year that will provide resources for every student to excel.
- Students will also experience the **ScholarZone**, a summer math program. This engaging program is designed to improve critical thinking skills with real world challenges, and strong social and emotional learning supports.
- All K-8 students will participate in **My Book Summer**, a structured program to ensure all students have access to in-home, high-quality, engaging, authentic text. Each student will take home ten books to encourage reading at home throughout the year!

I am excited to share this initiative with you and can't wait to see our students' excitement as they receive books to add to their home libraries.



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- RICAS MATH TESTING**
Elementary: Session 1 and 2, Grade 5
Middle: Session 2 All grades
Wednesday, May 17 - Thursday, May 18
- PARENT UNIVERSITY: Vaping Up In Smoke: What Parents Need to Know about Vaping**
May 23, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- PARENT UNIVERSITY: Literacy Learning: ARC Curriculum**
May 17, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- PARENT UNIVERSITY: Mental Health: Show me the District DATA!**
May 25, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- PARENT UNIVERSITY: Understanding Unconscious Bias in Support of Safer Schools**
May 18, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

MAY SCHOOL MENU

SUMMER LEARNING
APRENDIZAJE DE VERANO

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS

If you are interested in joining us for summer programs please visit our website at providenceschools.org/summer. The priority registration deadline is May 12 to secure bus transportation. Registration will continue after this date but transportation cannot be provided past May 12.

MONDAY, JULY 10 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

Elementary (Grades K-5)
Summer Stars Learning Academy
Young Woods and Lima Elementary School
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)
STEM & E-Sports
DelSesto Middle School
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

High School (Grades 9-12)
PPSD High School Summer
Credit Recovery
Central High School
Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DISTRICT UPDATES



A COMMUNICATION BOARD IN FOX POINT

Vartan Gregorian Elementary School's Speech Language Pathologist Lauri A. Chung, MS, CCC-SLP collaborated with Councilman John Goncalves, Ward 1, and his team to obtain a communications board from Talk to Me Technologies for students and the community. A communication board is a sheet of symbols, pictures or photos that a child will learn to point to, to communicate with those around them. This board gives all students a voice when outside on the playground, especially students who are non-speaking who may find it challenging to carry their iPads or voice output devices to communicate. The board contains pictures of playground structures, verbs, questions, common phrases, even a sign language alphabet! Pictured from left to right: Councilman John Goncalves, Lauri Chung, Speech Language Pathologist, and students from Ms. Aiello's K-1 classroom.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

RESPECT Students Learning and Leading for Equity in Tulsa!

Providence Public Schools RESPECT students from **Hope, PCTA, and Classical**, spent the past four days at the **Team Harmony "We Have A Dream" Action Institute & Rally** in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The PPSD students joined student leaders from around the country, learning the skills needed to create positive change in their schools and communities. The program engaged students in workshops, discussions, and activities that focused on leadership development, network building, community building and so much more! They visited the Greenwood Museum and learned about Black Wall Street. Providence is the first district in Rhode Island represented in this annual national conference. Team Harmony, a multicultural forum, is noted for helping students lead efforts in promoting racial harmony and social justice through their annual conference. Huge thanks to chaperones Treda Collier-Dickenman, Mathew Barney, Krystal Lofton, and Denezia Fahie.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SAVE THE DATE

RESPECT Conference

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
Providence Marriott Downtown
Audience: PPSD Middle & High School Students

Culturally and Historically Responsive Education with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

Wednesday, May 31, 2023
3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Virtual
PPSD Educators, please register in *Frontline*, parents and community members, please use [this link](#) to register in order to receive the Zoom information.

RESPECT Leadership Academy

Monday, August 14, 2023 - Friday, August 25, 2023
Location: Providence Marriott Downtown
Audience: PPSD Middle & High School Students

June, PRIDE Empower

Monday, June 5, 2023
Location: Small Format (335 Wickenden St, Providence, RI 02903)
Audience: Providence Educators

In honor of Pride month, the Office of Equity and Belonging will host a meeting for educators that identify within the LGBTQ+ community. We will meet at Small Format from 4pm-6pm (335 Wickenden St, Providence, RI 02903) to be in community. Please register here as space is limited.

Brown University Summer Program-Free July 10-15

The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University is hosting a summer program (for rising 10th to 12th graders, and graduating seniors) focused on exploring the diversity and history of Rhode Island. Students will attend field trips around the state and the New England area. Free breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided. The application deadline is May 28. [Use this link to access the application.](#)

June is PRIDE Month-How will you show your support?

The Office of Equity and Belonging is proud to serve as one of several sponsors of the Rhode Island Trans Health Conference on May 20 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College (600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Roberts Hall Providence, RI 02908). Additionally, we are supporting some of our counselors who wish to attend and learn more about how we can better support students and staff.

SPONSORED BY THE DEI WORK GROUP, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE OFFICES OF EQUITY & BELONGING AND HUMAN RESOURCES

JUNE EMPOWER Meet Up

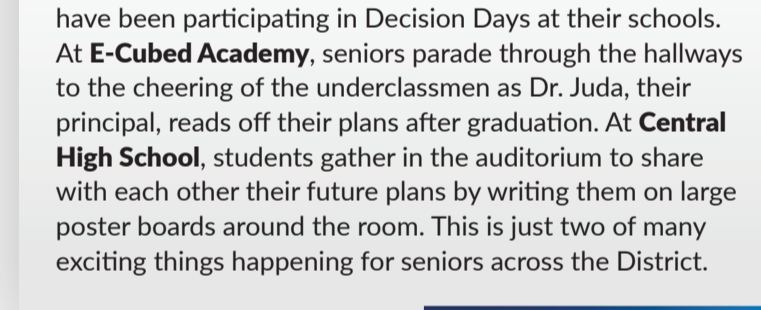
Providence Schools

June 5, 2023
4:00 - 6:00 PM
Small Format
335 Wickenden St,
Providence, RI 02903

Register here (closes June 1)
All PPSD employees welcome!

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



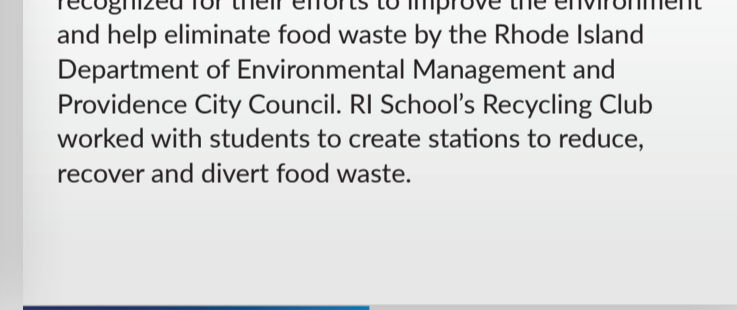
DECISION DAYS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

In the past few weeks, seniors from across the District have been participating in Decision Days at their schools. At **E-Cubed Academy**, seniors parade through the hallways to the cheering of the underclassmen as Dr. Juda, their principal, reads off their plans after graduation. At **Central High School**, students gather in the auditorium to share with each other their future plans by writing them on large poster boards around the room. This is just two of many exciting things happening for seniors across the District.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

George J. West Elementary School's Giancarlo Paz Rosy and **Esek Hopkins Middle School's** Jailyz Medina represented Providence Public Schools during the **2023 Morris J.W. Gaebel Profile in Excellence Awards** at the Providence Marriott Downtown May 4. The students spoke about the importance of the Junior Achievement programs in their schools. Junior Achievement of Rhode Island, Inc. instituted the Morris J.W. Gaebel Profile in Excellence Award to honor learners or organizations demonstrating excellence in the Rhode Island Community.



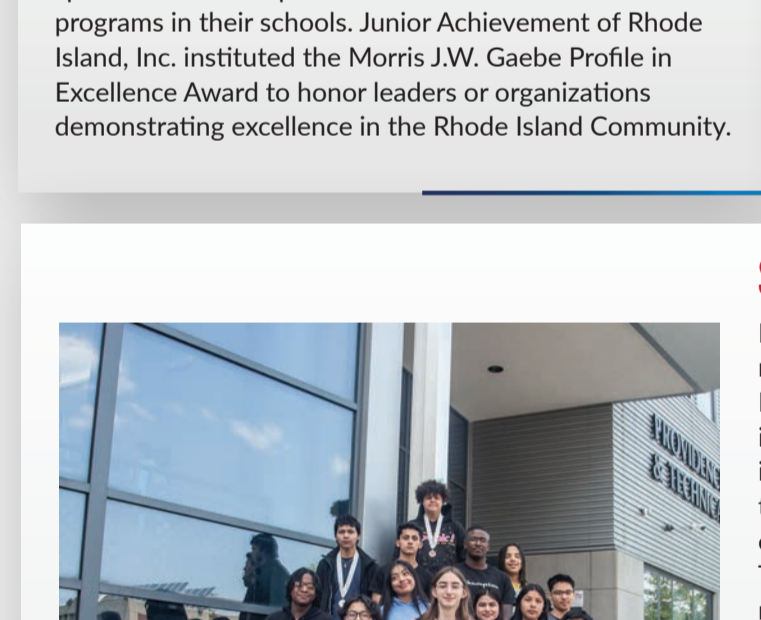
RECYCLING RANGERS AT LEVITON

Leviton Dual Language School students were recognized for their efforts to improve the environment and help eliminate food waste by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Providence City Council. RI School's Recycling Club worked with students to create stations to reduce, recover and divert food waste.



LESSONS IN ELECTIONS AND CIVICS

Rhode Island Secondary of **Central High School** recently to talk with students about the importance of voting. The former East Providence High history teacher engaged the classroom about the constitutional amendments that secured and strengthened voting rights for women and minorities. He also spoke about the importance of registering to vote as well as obstacles people still face today to cast their ballot.

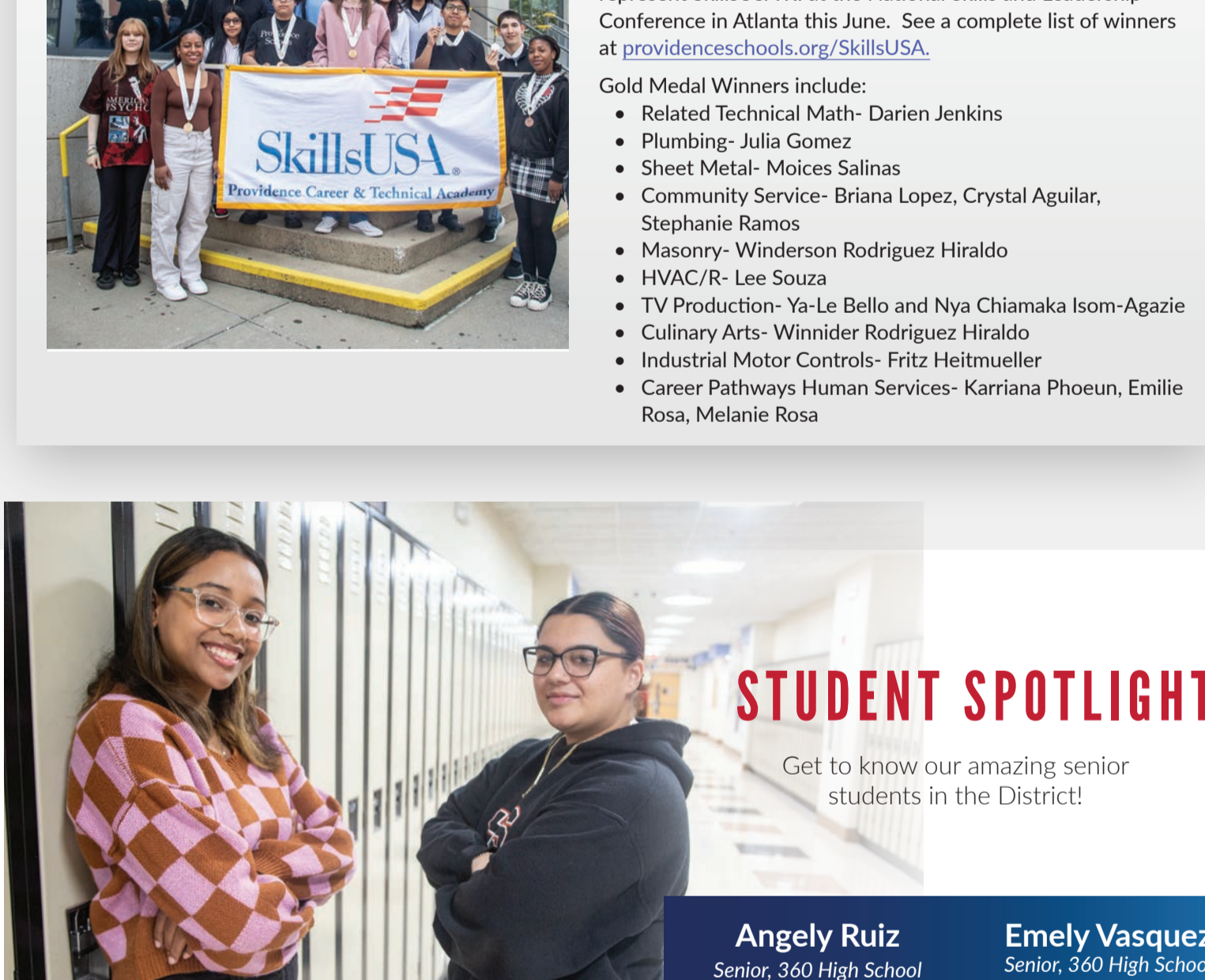


SkillsUSA

Fifteen **PCTA students** earned first place and received a gold medal in the **SkillsUSA Rhode Island** competitions. SkillsUSA RI state competitions begin in the classroom. Teachers design in-house contests based on technical standards designed by industry members and provided by the SkillsUSA RI leadership team. Depending on the contest, the top students from each classroom will move on to compete at the state level. The state gold medalist for each competition moves on to represent SkillsUSA RI at the National SkillsUSA and Leadership Conference in Atlanta this June. See a complete list of winners at providenceschools.org/SkillsUSA.

Gold Medal Winners include:

- Related Technical Math- Darien Jenkins
- Plumbing- Julia Gomez
- Sheet Metal- Moices Salinas
- Community Service- Briana Lopez, Crystal Aguilar, Stephanie Ramos
- Masonry- Winderson Rodriguez Hiraldo
- HVAC/R- Lee Souza
- TV Production- Ya-Le Bello and Nya Chiamaka Isom-Agazie
- Culinary Arts- Winnider Rodriguez Hiraldo
- Industrial Motor Controls- Fritz Heitmuller
- Career Pathways Human Services- Karriana Phoeun, Emilie Rosa, Melanie Rosa



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our amazing senior students in the District!

Angely Ruiz

Senior, 360 High School
ES: Dominican Republic
MS: Dominican Republic

Emely Vasquez

Senior, 360 High School
ES: Carl Lauro
MS: Roger Williams

What are your plans after high school?

AR: I am planning to go to Roger Williams University to major in Criminal Justice. After that I will go to law school. Being at this school and around people, I realized I wanted to work with people. I did the dual enrollment program at CCRI and started taking criminology classes. I really enjoyed it. My father is a lawyer in the Dominican Republic and also works for the Air Force. So I had a kind of sense about that and I took a Brown PreCollege class on Introduction to Law. With an internship I did with PrepareRI, I got even more experience in the legal and criminal justice field.

EV: I'll be going to Johnson and Wales University, majoring in biology with pre-PA track. Then I will continue to become a physician's assistant. My first career path idea was nursing. About 10 years ago my grandma had a heart attack which affected my family and we were in panic. She ended up having open heart surgery and the way the nurses showed empathy and cared for my family impacted me a lot and made me want to give back to the community. My sophomore year I did my CNA class and went on to do my clinicals at the hospital. I realized nursing wasn't for me with all the chaos. When I talked about it with one of my teachers he suggested I look into PA school.

AR: I do a lot of community involvement at the school. I play volleyball and softball at JSEC.

EV: I play volleyball. I am also a religious teacher at Blessed Sacrament. I also help around the church as much as I can. We are also Student Ambassadors at 360. We help around the school and share our experience with incoming freshmen. We give them tours and talk about our experience.

AR: I would say the same. Omar. Ever since elementary school, I always struggled in math and he helped me a lot. Also, my English teacher Brian Gold. Even though he is very strict, he always gets to the point and helps out as much as he can. He doesn't give us answers. He pushes us to a limit where we understand it on our own. And he pushes us to be the best writers that we can so that when we get to college we are prepared to do college level work.

AR: I am grateful. We have a lot of opportunities to take advantage of like the scholarship for the Brown PreCollege program and the dual enrollment program with CCRI. I was able to do all of these great programs because I was a PPSD student.

EV: The outcome of half of the PPSD high school students speaks for itself. With students going to these major colleges, it just shows how much the District teaches and cares for its students.

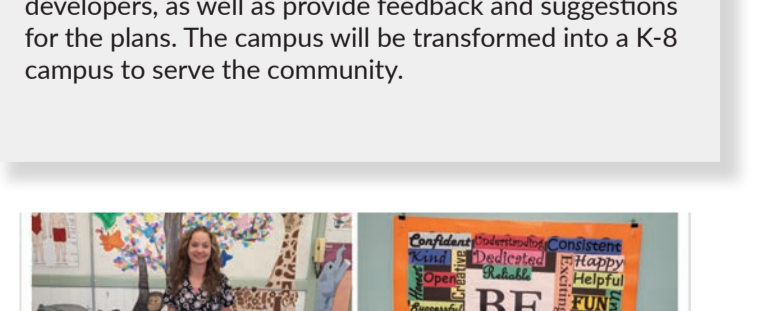
AR: I'm scared about all the new experiences that are coming. But I am also excited.

EV: I am also excited just because I have never been out by myself. In school everything is there for you and in college you have to do everything on your own. I feel like I am going to be lonely. But I know I am not by myself. It will be a whole new environment.

IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [RI high school students weld submarines in contest backed by Electric Boat](#)
Providence Journal, May 4, 2023
- [Why Secretary of State Amore and his pocket Constitution are touring RI classrooms](#)
Providence Journal, May 2, 2023

AROUND THE DISTRICT



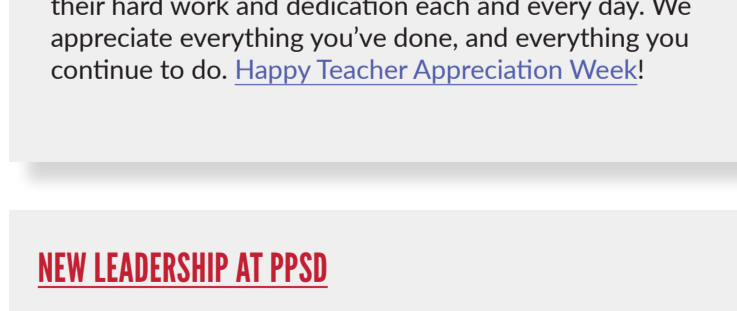
EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT KIZIRIAN

At this week's PTO meeting, families and staff were presented with architectural renderings and the future construction plans for **Kizirian Elementary School's** K-8 Campus. Families had the opportunity to ask questions to the PPSD Operations team and the construction developers, as well as provide feedback and suggestions for the plans. The campus will be transformed into a K-8 campus to serve the community.



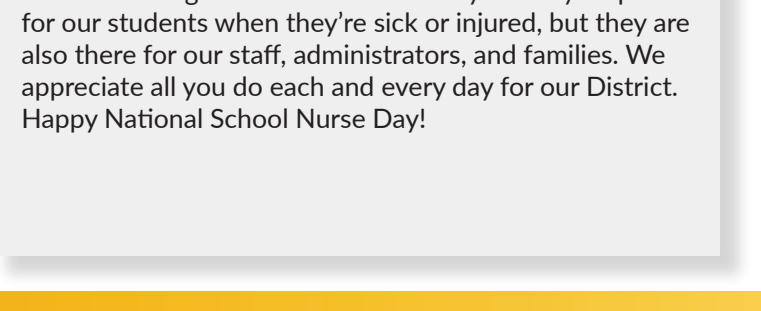
NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

We also celebrated National School Nurse Day this past week. Nurses are such an integral part of our school community, and we are so grateful to have such caring nurses working in our schools. Not only do they help care for our students when they're sick or injured, but they are also there for our staff, administrators, and families. We appreciate all you do each and every day for our District. Happy National School Nurse Day!



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

This past week was Teacher Appreciation Week, and we are so grateful for all of the amazing teachers here in our District. They make a difference in the lives of our students, administrators, and families, and the success of our students would not be possible without their hard work and dedication each and every day. We appreciate everything you've done, and everything you continue to do. **Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!**



NEW LEADERSHIP AT PPSD

We are happy to share the news that Carina Pinto de Chacon has been appointed as the Chief of Family and Community Engagement and Suzanne Ouellette has been named Chief of Communications in the District.

As the Chief of Family and Community Engagement (FACE), Carina Pinto de Chacon will oversee the areas of family engagement, community partnerships, customer service, student records, and District volunteers. Carina's division continues to improve the way we engage and partner with parents and the Providence community. She has been working in the District for 23 years. Carina emigrated from Guatemala at 14 years old; and is a Providence Schools graduate and Multilingual Learner.

As Chief Communications Officer, Suzanne Ouellette works with her team to manage all internal and external communications, the District's website and social media accounts, administrative translation services, and media inquiries. She also helps prepare presentations and talking points for District leadership.

Suzanne has served as a communications administrator in the non-profit and education sectors in the Greater Boston area before coming to PPSD in 2019.

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.