



The **Classical High School** Girls Basketball team pose for a photo after reading to **Fogarty Elementary School** students during Reading Week.

## CONNECTIONS

MAY 3, 2023

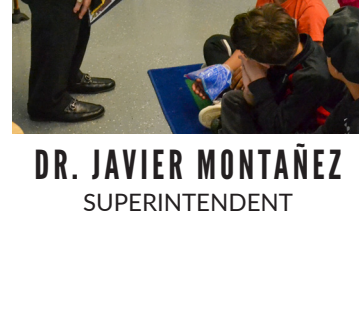
### SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

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](#).

It was great to see everyone Saturday at the **Eat, Play, Learn PVD Opportunities Fair** at PCTA. Each summer through our collaboration with the City of Providence and area organizations, we are able to offer a myriad of opportunities for students in Pre-K through Grade 8. Our own Elementary summer learning program has expanded this summer to serve even more students. We are working hard to make sure that learning is fun!

Recently, our schools have been hosting **Reading Weeks**. It was exciting to be one of the visiting readers in our elementary schools. I read to a great 2nd grade class at **Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School**. I even crossed paths with the Classical Girls Basketball team who read to students there as well.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the teachers and administrators who worked hard to administer the **Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)** to grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and the SATs to our high school students. We have the Math RICAS next. Not only are the tests challenging for students but standardized testing takes a lot of coordination by staff at all levels in the organization.



**DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ**  
SUPERINTENDENT

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

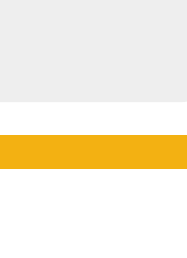
○ **SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION KICKOFF**  
Saturday, April 28  
Priority Deadline: Friday, May 12th

○ **KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
Friday, May 12th

○ **RICAS MATH TESTING**  
Elementary: Session 1 and 2, Grades 3 & 4  
Middle: Session 1 All grades  
Monday, May 15 - Tuesday, May 16

○ **RICAS MATH TESTING**  
Elementary: Session 1 and 2, Grade 5  
Middle: Session 2 All grades  
Wednesday, May 17 - Thursday, May 18

**MAY SCHOOL MENU**



**SUMMER LEARNING**  
APRENDIZAJE DE VERANO Providence Schools

**SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS**

If you are interested in joining us for summer programs please visit our website at [providenceschools.org/summer](https://providenceschools.org/summer). Register before **May 12** to secure your spot.

**MONDAY, JULY 10 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

**Elementary (Grades K-5)**  
Summer Stars Learning Academy  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Middle School (Grade 6 - 8)**  
NEED STEM at DelSesto  
Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)  
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

E-Sports at DelSesto  
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

### DISTRICT UPDATES

#### RICAS MATH TESTING

A reminder to elementary and middle school students and families that RICAS testing for math begins on Monday, May 15th, and runs through Thursday, May 18th. Please visit the District website for more information about specific dates.

#### KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY REGISTRATION DEADLINE

If your child is turning five-years-old on or before September 1st 2023, then they are eligible to be enrolled for the Kindergarten Lottery registration. Friday, May 12th is the last day that families can register their child. Full registration details and requirements can be found on the District website.

#### MAY 17TH NO EARLY RELEASE

Please note in your calendars that Wednesday, May 17th has been changed to a full school day instead of an early release day. There will be no early release day for professional development during the month of May.

#### 2023 EDWARD HICKLING BRADFORD SCHOLARSHIP

PPSD, in collaboration with the **City of Providence**, the **Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)**, and the **Bradford Trust**, is happy to announce that the **2023 Edward Hickling Bradford Scholarship** is now live and available for eligible PPSD seniors. With the help of the scholarship, Providence students who demonstrate significant financial need will have the opportunity to attend college.

### EQUITY AND BELONGING

Learning and leading for equity is a process that requires constant self-reflection. We must recognize our own positionality in our classrooms, schools, and workplaces in order to grow awareness of inequities that exist. Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, scholar and author of *Cultivating Joy and Unearthing Genius*, writes, "As educators, we have a great responsibility to cultivate knowledge, reflect upon our lives, and be able to name our purpose for and approach to teaching and learning." To this end, the Office of Equity and Belonging is thrilled to celebrate the following accomplishments-

#### FOUNDATIONS OF ATTENDING TO EQUITY MICRO-CREDENTIALING COHORT

Beginning in March, a dedicated group of educators have engaged in a micro-credentialing program focused on helping teachers understand systemic discrimination and its effects, evaluate their current context for equity practices, and build peer-to-peer relationships in respectful and deliberate ways. Congratulations to **LeAnn Dube** (Mount Pleasant), **William Graves** (PCTA), **Stephanie Griffin** (Greene), **Rachel Greenberg** (Bailey), **Lindsay Paiva** (Webster), and **Sarah O'Reilly** (PCTA) for their dedication to the program, and to **Elizabeth Brownlee** (West), **Francesca LeClerc** (Classical), **Kate Mendillo** (Carnevale), **Natalie Otero** (Classical), and **Catherine Sully** (Hope) for earning their first micro-credential, "Exploring and Deepening an Equity Mindset."

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SAVE THE DATE

##### 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](mailto: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](mailto:equity@ppsd.org).

**RESPECT student leadership conference** - New date: May 23rd, 8am-2:30pm at the Providence Marriott.

**emPOWER Meets:** Save the date for emPOWER Meets for LGBTQ+ Educators on June 5th, and our end-of-year emPOWER Meets for Educators of Color on June 20th. As always, all PPSD educators are welcome.

CULTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

DR. GHOLDY MUHAMMAD

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORK SESSION

TEACHERS, PARENTS, ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME

MAY 31, 2023

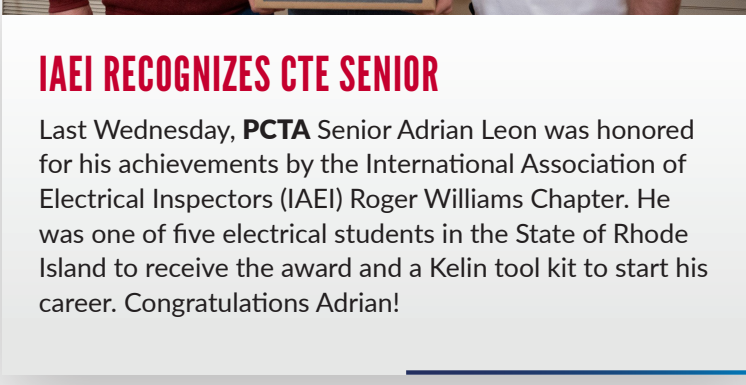
3:45 - 5:15PM, ON ZOOM

YOU 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

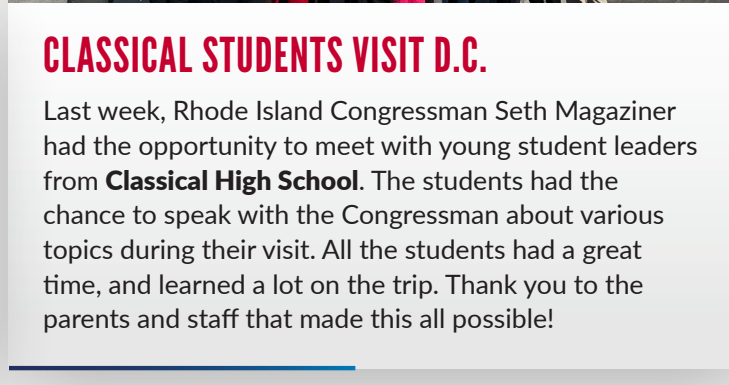
### CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



#### IAEI RECOGNIZES CTE SENIOR

Last Wednesday, **PCTA Senior Adrian Leon** was honored for his achievements by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) Roger Williams Chapter. He was one of five electrical students in the State of Rhode Island to receive the award and a Kelin tool kit to start his career. Congratulations Adrian!



#### CLASSICAL STUDENTS VISIT D.C.

Last week, Rhode Island Congressman Seth Magaziner had the opportunity to meet with young student leaders from **Classical High School**. The students had the chance to speak with the Congressman about various topics during their visit. All the students had a great time, and learned a lot on the trip. Thank you to the parents and staff that made this all possible!



#### MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Last week, **Hope High School** had their Multicultural Night, which was widely attended by students and their families. Approximately 300 families came to the event, which was a great opportunity for the Hope school community to celebrate diversity and learn from one another's culture. Special thanks to everyone who made this night such a huge success!



#### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

**Nathanael Greene Middle School** hosted a Family Game Night this past week. Students and families came together to play all sorts of different board games including Checkers, Connect Four, and Sorry! There was a great turnout for the event, and a fun time was had by all. Big thank you to the staff and administrators who made this great night possible for the students and their families!



"It felt good to win on the volleyball court. You know what I mean? And be beside people that were just as motivated and wanted it as much as you do."

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our amazing senior students in the District!

**Emely Garcia**  
Senior, E-Cubed Academy  
MS: Roger Williams MS  
ES: Dominican Republic

**Valentina Gonzalez**  
Senior, E-Cubed Academy  
MS: Nathanael Greene MS  
ES: Robert F. Kennedy ES

**Ambar Jimenez**  
Senior, E-Cubed Academy  
MS: Dominican Republic  
ES: Dominican Republic

**Ayva Satanoski**  
Senior, E-Cubed Academy  
MS: Fall River Public Schools  
ES: Dominican Republic

#### What are your plans after high school?

**VG:** I am going to continue my studies at URI. I am going in as undeclared business.

**AJ:** I don't really know right now.

**AS:** I committed to Salve Regina in Newport and my major will be psychology. I also learned I got accepted to Howard today. But I received a full scholarship to Salve.

**EG:** Next year, I am going to go to CCR1 for two years and then transfer to a four year school. I want to go into the medical field, either pediatrics or cardiology. When I transfer, I would like to go to PC or URI.

#### What will you miss most about high school?

**AS:** I enjoy the bond you make because the school is so small. No one is not a familiar face. It is a very close community here so I will miss that.

**EG:** I would say the same thing but also the kindness of all the students. When I first got here I didn't know much and they were all very supportive.

**You are being recognized for your achievements on the volleyball court, could you tell me more?**

**VG:** The way that the volleyball team bonded together was special. We all played for Hope and made it to the championships in November. We were runner ups to win the championship. Only losing to Providence Country Day School.

**AJ:** I always had volleyball practice in the DR but I never played in a real game. So for me that was my best experience to be part of the team and play on a competitive team against other teams.

**AS:** It felt good to win. You know what I mean? And be beside people that were just as motivated and wanted it as much as you do. Overall, I just love being involved. Volleyball, softball, student government, prom committee, all that good stuff. I like it a lot.

**EG:** It was a great season. Valentina has been in volleyball since her freshman year. I recruited Ambar and Ayva to join us on the team our junior year and we had a great season.

#### What are you most looking forward to up until graduation?

**AS:** I'm not looking forward to graduation. For me, I didn't get the opportunity to stay in one school for all four years. I transferred to E-Cubed for the last two years. I feel like I haven't had enough time here. And really don't want to leave. It is obviously excited to look forward and make new friends and learn new things. I wish I had more time in high school.

**VG:** I would agree. Even though I've been here all four years. I still feel like I haven't had enough time to get to know everyone well and the teachers well. Sport in general too how fast the seasons went. You had a really good time but you just wish everything was longer.

**EG:** Leaving here will be tough.

#### Why are sports important to you?

**VG:** Playing sports you build more friendships. Build bonds. A community in general. Everyone knows us as the volleyball girls.

**EG:** We all got connected through volleyball.

**AJ:** When I came here, I was excited to go to the United State and play on sports teams. I was so excited to join a team. It was hard for me in my first year here in Providence. My first months, I felt something was missing. It was hard to get used to the environment and the weather. I missed the vitamin D, the sun. Volleyball was great. It was part of my life in the DR and once I got into volleyball here it made things easier.

**VG:** Coach Chu was a really good coach. He helped us grow. We went from junior year not winning any games to winning all the way to the championship. He is a teacher at Mount Pleasant and a boys volleyball here it made things easier.

#### Why E-Cubed?

**AJ + AS:** It was the closest school to home. I'm a 15 minute walk from here.

**VG:** For me it was because my sister went here. She was a senior when I was a freshman. Her four years went really well and she encouraged me to go here. At first I was scared it would be too small but I liked it a lot.

#### What advice would you have for freshman?

**AS:** Be involved.

**AJ:** Every adult is so helpful and comprehensive.

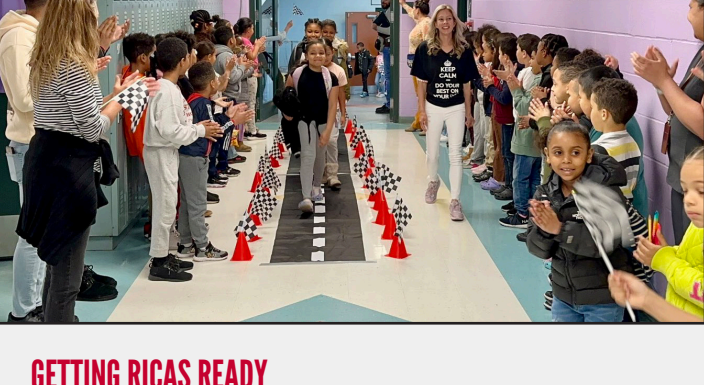
**VG:** Try new things. Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.

#### Any teachers or staff who had a big impact while you were here?

**All:** They are all great!

**AS:** Mr. Constant has been welcoming from the jump. He makes it his business to get to know every last student. Everybody has a bond with him. Everyone feels comfortable ranting to him and going to him for advice. He's always checking up on you. He always makes sure you're acknowledged and that's something I have always appreciated about him.

### AROUND THE DISTRICT



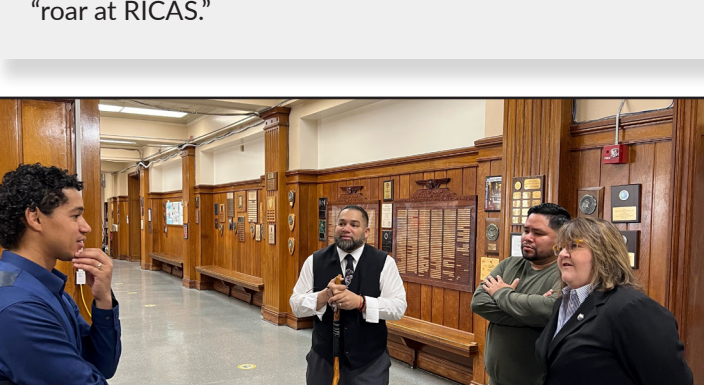
#### GETTING RICAS READY

Elementary and middle schools around the District showed how they were getting their students ready for RICAS testing! Teachers and staff pulled out all the stops to try to make it as fun as possible for the students before they took their tests. Check out Dr. Reilly, principal at **Young Woods Elementary School**, as he read the Young Owls ready for testing last week, and the dinosaur that paid a visit to **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School**, as their students got ready to "roar at RICAS."



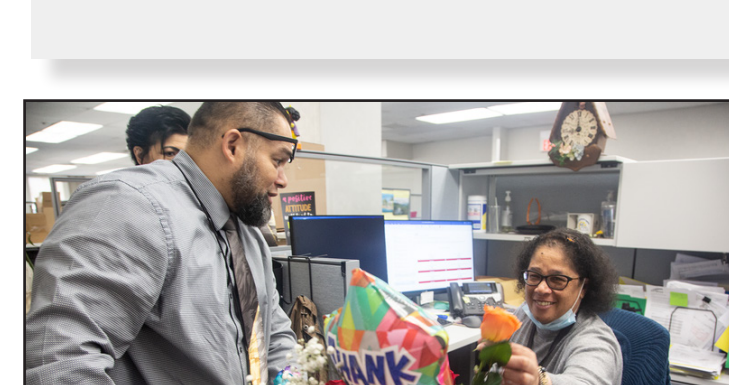
#### READING WEEK

PPSD staff, students and community partners have been participating in Reading Weeks at many of our schools! **Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School** and **Asa Messer Elementary School** had lots of special guest readers read to the students. We can't wait to see what other activities will be held during the week! Happy Reading Week to our PPSD students and staff!



#### COUNCILWOMAN VISITS MOUNT PLEASANT

Providence City Councilwoman Joann Ryan, along with Superintendent Dr. Montañez and School Board President Erin Rogel stopped by **Mount Pleasant High School** last week, to learn about the various exciting programs that are coming to the school. A special thank you to Mount Pleasant Principal Torchon for taking the time to show everyone around, and to discuss the new programs that are coming to the high school.



#### TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK

The last week of April was **Administrative Professionals Week**. Thank you to all of the unsung heroes across the District who keep our offices running. As a kind gesture, the Superintendent delivered food and roses to each floor at 797 Westminster Street on Administrative Assistants Day! Without our staff, none of this would be possible. **Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8th - May 12th** and **Principal Appreciation Day is May 1st**. We appreciate all of you, and recognize your dedication!

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](mailto:communications@ppsd.org).