



Students from PPSD high schools were able to tour **Brown University**, speak with advisors, and learn about the different opportunities during Brown College Day.

CONNECTIONS

MAY 1, 2024

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Happy May! We are in our final two months of the school year, and graduations are only a few weeks away! We had another busy month of testing, athletic accomplishments, and academic achievements, with a lot of exciting things happening in the month ahead.

To start, I want to congratulate the District on the hard work put into **SurveyWorks**. We surpassed our goal by 7% with 55% of families completing the survey. We are also proud to share that 93% of students completed the survey. Your feedback matters, and together we are working to build a better District for our students, staff, and families.

I also wanted to give a shout out to our students who have completed their first round of **RICAS** testing, and **PSAT/SAT**. You made it! Thank you to the staff and administration who helped administer each test. The next round of RICAS testing will take place mid-May.

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**, which is an important topic to educate ourselves on. Throughout the month of May, I want us to challenge ourselves to learn more about mental health, and to help raise awareness about it. Together, we can fight the stigma, and provide support for others. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, I encourage you to stop by the **Mental Health Fair** being held on Tuesday, May 14 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA), 41 Fricker Street, Providence. The event was created and organized by PPSD students, and will feature live music, giveaways, guest speakers and vendors on different topics, and more.

May 1st is **National Principals Day**, and there is so much I can say about the amazing Principals we have in our District. We are lucky to have some of the best in the state. Principals, I don't know where our schools, students, staff, and families would be without all you do each day. The effort that you put into everything you do doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I also want to give a shout out to all of the amazing teachers we have in the District, as **National Teacher Appreciation Week** is the first week of May. Teachers are the guiding lights for our students in the classrooms, serving as mentors, coaches, and cheerleaders. I appreciate all of the work our dedicated teachers and principals do every day.

As mentioned, **graduations** are only a couple weeks away, and I always look forward to attending each one to celebrate our seniors' accomplishments. [For a full list of graduation dates, venues, and times, please click here.](#) The deadline for **kindergarten lottery registration** is Friday, May 10th! If your child is turning five years of age on or before September 1st, then they are eligible to attend kindergarten. [Sign up here!](#) More information about kindergarten can be found on our [Kindergarten Registration page.](#)



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

DISTRICT UPDATES



GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS RECOGNITION

William D'Abate Elementary School and **Frank D. Spaziano Elementary School** have been designated as 2024 Green Ribbon Schools awardees by the U.S. Department of Education! The prestigious designation is awarded to schools for their commitment to high-quality sustainability practices in their facilities and environmental education. Recipients are nationally recognized as some of America's most successful educational institutions in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective sustainability education.



UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

Elementary & Middle Schools

Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSA): May 1st - May 3rd (Makeups through May 31st)

RICAS Math Testing: May 13th - May 17th (Makeups through May 24th)

E-CUBED CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

E-Cubed Academy is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year! To help celebrate, the school will be hosting two events for alumni, students, and the community. On Wednesday, **May 15th from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** there will be an Art & Culture Night with Dinner, and on Friday, **May 17th from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** there will be an E-Cubed Tour with Dinner. Both events will take place at **E-Cubed Academy**, 812 Branch Avenue, Providence. www.providenceschools.org/ecubed

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

June 24th will be the last day of school for all Providence Public Schools families. Please find the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar here: www.providenceschools.org/AcademicCalendar-SY24-25

RIDE FUTURE EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS

Annually, the **Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)** recognizes a Rhode Island graduating high school senior pursuing higher education in the field of education and the Rhode Island PK-12 educator who has made a significant impact on this student. High school seniors are invited to apply for the RIDE Future Educator Scholarship to support their dream of becoming an educator. The graduating senior selected will receive a \$500 scholarship. Also, the RI educator identified by the selected senior as having made a positive impact on them and influenced their decision to pursue a career in education will receive a \$500 award.

To apply, 2024 seniors should complete the [RIDE Future Educator](#) application. The application due date is **May 3, 2024**.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Keenan at mary.keenan@ride.ri.gov

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>.

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR AT PCTA

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, join us for our first ever Providence Schools Mental Health Fair on Tuesday, May 14th from 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., hosted by PPSD students in the field house at Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA), 41 Fricker Street, Providence. The event will feature live music, giveaways, guest speakers and vendors on different topics, yoga taught by local instructors, food and light refreshments, and more! By helping to break the stigma around mental health, we are creating a safer and healthier tomorrow.

KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY REGISTRATION

A reminder to register your child for kindergarten if you haven't already done so! If your child is turning five years of age on or before September 1st, then they are eligible to attend kindergarten this upcoming school year! Parents can sign up [here](#) or bring a completed registration packet to 325 Ocean Street, Providence. The lottery closes on Friday, May 10th so sign up today!

GOOD NEWS:

- ['Eat, Play, Learn PVD' returning to Providence this summer](#)
Providence Business News, April 8
- [Local high school students build custom 'Wish Houses' for sick kids](#)
WJAR, April 4, 2024

CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



K-9 UNIT AND MOUNTED POLICE VISIT YOUNG WOODS

Pre-K students at **Young Woods Elementary School** had some special visitors recently! Members of the Providence Police K-9 Unit and the Providence Mounted Police came to the school to speak to a Pre-K classroom. Pre-K has been doing a pet/animal study, and students are learning that some animals have jobs and are part of the community. Special thanks to the Providence Police Department for providing a real-life hands-on experience for the students!



SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWINGS

Students at **Robert Bailey Elementary School** viewed the recent solar eclipse! The fifth grade class is learning all about what a solar eclipse is, the safety rules while viewing an eclipse, and drawing the different phases of the sun during the eclipse. This information will be useful to the students when they do their projects on the solar eclipse. **Vartan Gregorian Elementary School** also had a solar eclipse viewing outside of their school. What a cool experience!



PAWS TO DESTRESS

Students at **PCTA** had some furry friends pay them a visit at the beginning of April! Pups from **Paws to Destress** stopped by the school before students took their PSAT/SAT. Students were so excited to hang out with the dogs. Thanks for coming, and we hope everyone did well on the tests!



TURNAROUND ARTS SHOWCASE

Nine **Roger Williams Middle School** students performed in the Turnaround Arts Student Showcase. **Turnaround Arts**, a Kennedy Center Education program, brought together over 100 elementary and middle school students. Great job to all who performed!

SENIOR PROFILES

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.

Daniel Paz Rossy

Elementary School: George J. West Elementary School
Middle School: DeSesto Middle School
High School: Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)

Daniel is a senior at Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA). Upon graduating high school, he really wants to pursue a career in the aviation industry, either becoming an aircraft mechanic or a commercial pilot. He hopes to use the skills he's learned in his tech area of HVACR/Plumbing to help him with learning the mechanics of an airplane and how to fix any problem that may need fixing.



During his time at PCTA, Daniel is thankful for the opportunity that his tech teachers gave him to experience real life service calls and real life construction scenarios. Another memorable experience he'll have is the amazing teachers that he's had to guide him through the four years of instruction. Daniel feels he's had more of a connection to his high school teachers, in particular, Mr. Masse (CTE teacher), Mr. Sherwood (CTE teacher), Mrs. McLoud (EEP English teacher), Ms. Bone (Geometry teacher), Ms. Hatt (Pre-Calculus teacher), and Ms. O'Reilly (French teacher). These teachers never failed to give him advice on anything, and he is beyond thankful for the people that helped guide him through school.

While nervous about what's to come after high school, Daniel knows that completing high school is an accomplishment. Knowing that he is stepping into the real world, all of the skills he's learned and developed throughout the years at PCTA can help him achieve his dream of becoming something big in the aviation industry.

FAFSA FOR SENIORS

Have you filled out the FAFSA yet? Do you have questions about how to complete the form? The College Planning Center offers free completion assistance for students and families. Visit collegeplanningcenter.org to schedule an appointment!

High schools will also be having FAFSA Days for those who need help completing the FAFSA. Visit our [District Calendar](#) to see when your high school is hosting their FAFSA Day.

PRE-K CORNER

Naomi Felix

Senior, Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)

College: Undecided

Major: Electrical Technology

Naomi Felix's decision to apply to Providence Career and Technical Academy to pursue Electrical Technology four years ago demonstrates her foresight and commitment to achieving her goals. By selecting this field of study, she laid the foundation for her future academic and professional endeavors in electrical engineering. This choice likely provided her with valuable knowledge and skills that have contributed to her success in gaining acceptance to prestigious universities.

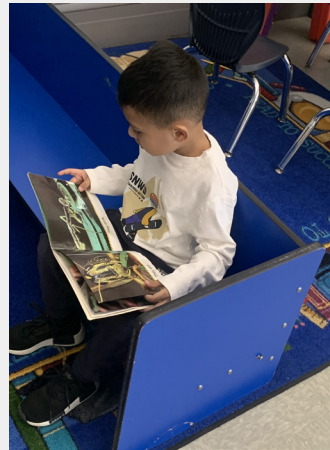


Naomi has been accepted to several universities, including Northeastern University with the Torch Scholarship, Olin College of Engineering, and Princeton University. Notably, she is the first student from Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA), to be accepted into an Ivy League school. This achievement speaks volumes about Naomi's hard work, dedication, and academic excellence. Moreover, receiving the Torch Scholarship demonstrates her status as a hard-working and accomplished first-generation college student from a low-income background. The Torch Scholarship provides full financial support for tuition and covers the cost of room and board for all four years at Northeastern University. Overall, Naomi's acceptance into these esteemed institutions and her receipt of the Torch Scholarship are testament to her outstanding academic achievements and future potential.

Naomi's academic achievements are truly remarkable, however she has also excelled outside of the classroom over the course of her four year career at PCTA. Competing in SkillsUSA Industrial Motors and Controls competitions at state and national levels, she secured medals for three consecutive years, showcasing her proficiency in Electrical Technology. Her success highlights not only technical skills but also the ability to excel under pressure. Completing two summer internships with Brown University, one abroad in Italy, demonstrates her initiative and eagerness for real-world experience, enhancing her practical skills alongside academic knowledge. In addition, Naomi has engaged in numerous extracurricular activities, including community involvement with non-profit organizations and a 100-hour work-based internship during her junior and senior years. Naomi maintained a high GPA, showcasing strong time management and organizational skills. Her commitment to academic excellence and well rounded development exemplifies her clear long-term goals, serving as an inspiration.

EXPRESSING EMOTIONS

Pre-K students at **Pleasant View Elementary School** work in interest centers and learn to express emotions with their new SEL materials. Preschool learning centers play a vital role in preschool programs by providing young children with structured, interactive, and engaging environments for early education. These centers are carefully designed to offer a variety of hands-on activities, games, and materials that target specific areas of development, such as cognitive, social, emotional, and motor skills.



FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Pre-K students at **Mary Fogarty Elementary School** work on their fine motor skills. Block play requires fine and gross motor skills. Blocks enhance children's problem-solving abilities, mathematics skills, and language and literacy abilities. Constructing "creations" builds self esteem and feelings of success.



CELEBRATING STUDENTS CONT.



MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING - BEAT THE STREETS

Wrestlers from **DelSesto Middle School, Esek Hopkins Middle School, Gilbert Stuart Middle School, Nathanael Greene Middle School, Roger Williams Middle School, and West Broadway Middle School** all competed in two days worth of competition as members of **Beat the Streets**. Day one was a dual meet tournament, where teams battled to claim the title of Best Team in the City. Nathanael Greene won their 8th title. Day two was the individual competition, as kids battled it out to see who was the best wrestler in the city in their respective weight class. Thirteen champions were crowned.

“The best weekend of the season! Our coaches and kids battling and bonding with each other, good laughs, having our alumni and high schoolers getting involved, and planning for a successful future!” described Silas Murray, the City Director of Beat the Streets. “All while being supported by our families, partners, and community.”

We also wanted to give a shout out to a group of PPSD female students who won the wrestling state championship - the first ever! Also a part of the Beat the Streets program, the girls were recognized at the State House, and all received citations. Congratulations girls.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY SCHOOL MENU



- [School Board: Policy Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Local Special Education Advisory Committee](#)
Thursday, May 2, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- [Mental Health Fair](#)
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Providence Career & Technical Academy
41 Fricker Street, Providence
- [School Board: Finance Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- [Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\) Meeting](#)
Monday, May 20, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Regular Meeting](#)
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: Health & Wellness Committee Meeting](#)
Thursday, May 23, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- [Memorial Day \(No School\)](#)
Monday, May 27, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- [School Board: CTE Committee Meeting](#)
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Parent University



SPRING SESSION 2024



Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726881756>

April

Tuesday, 4/9
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Understanding Your Child's Social-Emotional Development

All grades

Participants will learn key signs and information to better understand their children's emotional and social development as we uncover the biases that keep us from understanding each other.

Thursday, 4/11
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Childhood Trauma and Effects on Brain Development

All grades

This presentation will explore the topic of childhood trauma, types of trauma, and the effects of trauma in childhood on brain development.

Tuesday, 4/23
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Unlocking Little Minds: Understanding Preschool Behavior

Families of Early Childhood Students

Increase awareness of your child's social emotional development and behavior. Understand the meaning behind behavior and ways to address it.

Thursday, 4/25
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

CCRI Adult Education and Multi-Language Learning

All grades

Come and learn more about how CCRI is supporting adult learners. Learn how to get connected to GED or High School Equivalence programs, language instruction, and scholarships to return to college.

Monday, 4/29
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Helping Families Facing Housing Insecurity

All grades

PPSD's Family Engagement Office and Crossroads are working together to help PPSD families living in temporary housing arrangements and other helpful resources.

May

Tuesday, 5/7
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Post-Pandemic Impacts on School-Age Youth Mental Health

All grades

This workshop will explore mental health challenges among youth before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, including groups that may be more vulnerable, changes in behavior patterns, and ways in which schools can identify needs and implement programs to best support these youth.

Tuesday, 5/14
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Understanding Your Child's IEP: Workshop for Parents of Students with Disabilities

All grades

This workshop will help parents better understand special education services as listed in the Individual Education Program, or IEP.

Thursday, 5/16
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Strategizing for Educational Equality

All grades

Participants will learn how PPSD's Office of Equity and Belonging is leveraging its resources, as part of its strategy to advance educational equity for young people.

Thursday, 5/23
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Understanding My Child's ACCESS Scores/How I Can Support their Language Acquisition

MLL Students Only

Parents who attend this session will walk away with a better understanding of the ACCESS test, what their child's ACCESS scores mean, and how they can best support their child's continued language development.

Tuesday, 5/28
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Understand Your Teenager's Brain Development - What is GOOD for the Brain?

Middle/High School Only

This training focuses on the healthy development of the teenage brain and how it impacts decision making.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

PPSD EQUITY CONFERENCE APRIL 5 & 6

Over 250 educators, parents, students and community members attended the first annual PPSD Equity Conference, *RISE UP! Carving a Path for Educational Equity and Justice (CPEEJ)*, which was hosted by the Office of Equity and Belonging, on April 5th and 6th, at PCTA. The overarching purpose of the CPEEJ Conference was to: (1) provide participants with a foundational understanding of educational equity and justice, (2) spark discussion and reflection about the role that we can each play in championing educational equity and justice for Providence students, (3) ignite a personal and/or collective commitment to take action, (4) and to understand how in doing so, we can individually and collectively bring excellence, value, high expectations with support, to our students, families, schools, and community. Student and adult presenters, from Providence and as far away as Atlanta, facilitated twenty-four workshops focused on the five components of the PPSD Equity Framework—Student Support and Empowerment, Culturally Responsive Education, Family and Community Agency, Accountability & Transparency, and Climate, Culture and Belonging. Participants were treated to opening remarks from Dr. Javier Montanez, Dr. Nkolika Onye, and Maribeth Calabro. Keynote speakers—Marcela Bettancur, Dr. Mark Gooden, Jason Craig Harris, and Dr. Folami Prescott-Adams, provided important links to the overall purpose and vision for the conference. The conference culminated with a panel discussion facilitated by Treda Collier-Dickenman that included keynote speakers, presenters, and members of the Office of Equity and Belonging, including Arav Sunadaresh. All participants were able to select up to 4 brand new books representative of a wide variety of equity related topics, written by a variety of known and relatively new authors. **Click [here](#), to view the CPEEJ Conference webpage. A recap video can be seen [here](#).**

COMING SOON on MAY 30: R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Student Equity Project Public Showcase

On May 30, 2024, from 9:15 to 11:00 AM, students will showcase their equity action projects at the CIC Building located at 255 Dyer St. Providence. The showcase takes place during the third, and final, R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Student Equity Leadership Conference of the 2023-

24 school year, organized by the Office of Equity and Belonging. Launched in Fall 2022, the goal of R.E.S.P.E.C.T. programming is to inspire young people to be the change they seek by learning how to strategize, problem-solve, engage in critical analysis, write for purpose, and work with their peers to make the change needed to improve their school and local community. During the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. conference series, students from every middle and high school, and one elementary school, gather to: (1) identify issues that impede their access to educational excellence, (2) gather and analyze data, (3) create and execute their action plans. The public showcase on May 30, is new this year. Eighty-five young people will be ready to share the projects they have sustained all year. Please join us. Please visit providenceschools.org/equity for more information and to RSVP. Space will be limited.

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 were distributed to schools by the of week (4/19) 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. Parents may contact us at equity@ppsd.org for more information.**

For more happenings around PPSD, be sure to follow and like us on X, Facebook, and Instagram.



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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.