



CONNECTIONS

PPSD School Board Member Toni Akin, left, RIDE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kelvin Roldán, Providence Teachers Union President Maribeth Calabro, and Superintendent Javier Montañez stand for a photo with PPSD retiree Susan Chin during the Teacher Appreciation Event for PPSD retirees. Below, Superintendent Montañez and Earnest Cox, a retired PPSD administrator.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Happy November! As the clocks fall back one hour this week, we shift into the final two months of the 2023 year. November is an exciting month, as it is **RI STEAM Month!** Providence Public School District (PPSD) will celebrate opportunities that schools offer students in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) as well as highlight the importance of STEAM learning. We look forward to sharing our schools' STEAM activities and events on social media! Follow and tag related posts with #RISTEAMMonth on social media to join in the STEAM fun all month long.

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 16** when families will have the opportunity to learn more about our elementary, middle and high schools during our annual **School Choice Fair** at **Providence Career and Technical Academy** from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.!**

This will also be an opportunity for students to learn and engage in the redesign work at four Providence high schools and a middle school. Please come join us to learn about kindergarten opportunities as well as middle school and high school opportunities.

Last week, I was joined by **RIDE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kelvin Roldán, Providence Teachers Union President Maribeth Calabro, and School Board Member Toni Akin** to honor our recent PPSD retirees at the beautiful Roger Williams Park Botanical Center for their years of service, dedication, and commitment to the District. Our tremendous retirees will always be a part of the PPSD community. Their commitment to our students and families throughout the years was tremendous. Congratulations to all of our PPSD retirees, and thank you for all you've done for the District!

The school year is flying by, so I encourage you all to keep pushing hard on attending school and learning every day. Onwards and upwards!

NOVEMBER 10, 2023



DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

Providence
Schools
SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR
FERIA DE SELECCIÓN ESCOLAR

FREE FOOD!
ENTERTAINMENT!
INFORMATION!

¡COMIDA GRATIS!
¡ENTRETENIMIENTO!
¡INFORMACIÓN!

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Jueves, 16 de Noviembre 2023
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)
41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI 02903
(Entrance near the auditorium on Coxsack Street)

For questions call the Family and Community Engagement Office (FACE) 401-456-0686 or email face@ppsd.org
Para preguntas llame a la Oficina de Participación Familiar y Comunitaria (FACE) 401-456-0686 o correo electrónico face@ppsd.org



DISTRICT UPDATES

PPSD RETIREE CELEBRATION

Last week, Superintendent Montañez was joined by Rhode Island Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kelvin Roldán, Providence Teachers Union President Maribeth Calabro, and School Board Member Toni Akin to honor 83 recent PPSD retirees at Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Thank you to all of our retirees for your service, dedication, and commitment to Providence students. Enjoy your retirement!

SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR

The School Choice Fair is on Thursday, November 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at PCTA located at 41 Fricker Street. Come learn about our great schools and what they have to offer, including our five redesign schools! Free food and entertainment will be provided. For more information or any questions, please call the Family and Community Engagement Office (FACE) at 401-456-0686 or email them at face@ppsd.org.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is National Native American Heritage Month. This month, PPSD honors the rich and diverse Native American cultures

and societal contributions made and continue to be made in our society. We honor and celebrate the languages, knowledge, stories, and history of these communities.

FSA-ID NIGHT

Attention seniors and families! Join us for FSA-ID Night on Tuesday, November 14 from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. at CCRI Liston Campus, 1 Hilton Street, Providence! PPSD is proud to partner with the College Planning Center, Onward We Learn, and CCRI to help put on this event for PPSD seniors and their families. They will be creating FSA-ID login credentials and official signature for the FAFSA - to facilitate the completion of the FAFSA form once it opens this winter.



Students participate in the RESPECT Student Equity Leadership Conference series which brought together students from PPSD middle and high schools. (Photo by Aiyah Josiah-Faeduwor)

EQUITY AND BELONGING

RESOURCES FOR DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

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

NEW PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PPSD STAFF

Lessons, Activities and Resources for Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose - Part 1

The Office of Equity and Belonging is proud to support The Teaching for Black Lives (BLM) teacher study group, a PPSD teacher-led initiative. The study group will be hosting a Zoom Professional Development (PD) session for fellow educators, counselors, and administrators on **Wednesday, November 15 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** to learn about the Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose. The session will review the BLM 13 guiding principles and provide opportunities to explore resources and plan ways to integrate Black Lives Matter at School lessons, activities, and materials into our practices. This PD will be scaffolded to be accessible for all grade level divisions and content areas. This is a paid professional learning opportunity (negotiated district rate). PPSD staff can [register on Frontline](#).

Gender Equity Policies

The Office of Equity and Belonging will be hosting its final **Gender Equity Policies training** on 11/9 via Zoom from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. This training will review the following policies: Title IX, Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, Nondiscrimination Policy for Transgender and Gender Expansive Students, and the Workplace Gender Transition Policy. During this training participants will learn

and engage in understanding their rights and the rights of students to ensure compliance and understanding of our policies. Open to all PPSD employees (teachers, support staff, district staff, etc.). [Please register on Frontline](#).

Equity Advisory Council

The PPSD Equity Advisory Council meets monthly to advise District staff, provide input, and help to prioritize district-wide equity efforts, policies, strategies and investments. Composed of students, teachers, parents and community partners, the Board thoughtfully collaborates to elevate the voices of our diverse communities. Our work is currently focused on developing an Equity Lens Tool. Our next meeting will be on December 7th at 4:30pm. If you are interested in taking part in this work and making a monthly commitment, please email equity@ppsd.org.



(Photo by Aiyah Josiah-Faeduwor)



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

DELSESTO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Principal: Suzanne Madden

Assistant Principals: Allison Gruskin, Fiona McIntosh and Kyisha Threats

Are there any exciting new things being unveiled in your school this year?

This year, DelSesto Middle School is launching elements of its new redesign model, including new electives such as band, Bootstrap Algebra, SeaPerch, and Automation and Robotics. DelSesto will be creating an outdoor learning space through the Learning Inside Out Project funded through RIDE. Our Digital Media teacher is collaborating with a creative writing teacher to create weekly podcasts that feature our students and teachers. We also have a digital music class where kids create their own songs.

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

DelSesto Middle School's mission is to integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math into curricular activities to inspire students to become critical thinkers capable of using 21st century skills to build real-world solutions and solve relevant community challenges.

DelSesto Middle School's vision is to empower students to become global leaders by cultivating a community that fosters equity, belonging, and challenging expectations which will prepare them for high school, college, and the career of their choice.

We hope that our students grow to be inspired critical thinkers, with 21st-century skills that empower them to pursue the high school and college or career of their choice.

What is your goal for staff in the 2023-24 school year?

We aim to provide quality learning experiences based on grade level standards, develop strong relationships with their students and each other, and work to create the necessary work-life balance which will make them more energetic and productive. We want our staff to feel supported by the building administration and District offices. For example, our math coach is working with her teachers and Michelle Johnson from the Multilingual Learners (MLL) department to support learners with math curriculum, and provide teachers with strategies that will ensure understanding of the content.

Does your school have a mascot or school colors?

Our school mascot is the Jaguars, and our school colors are blue and gold.



CELEBRATING STUDENTS

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



MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS

Huge shoutout to the Nathanael Greene Middle School Boys Cross Country Team and the Nathan Bishop Middle School Girls Cross Country Team for coming in first place at the Middle School City Championship at Roger Williams Park this past Friday! Congratulations to all of our middle school students who competed in the race!



VARTAN GREGORIAN AT THE STATE HOUSE



Rhode Island House of Representatives House Majority Leader Christopher R. Blazewski hosted a fourth grade class from Vartan Gregorian Elementary School this week at the state house. Students were led through a mock legislative session. They discussed and debated several issues, and the students were given a tour of the State House.



CLASSICAL SENIOR FINISHES IN TOP 10

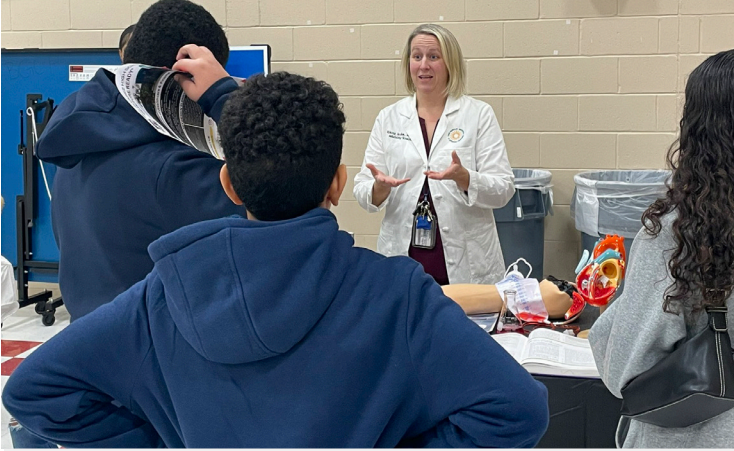
It was a big weekend for cross country! Congratulations to Classical High School senior Grace Doyle for finishing in the top 10 of runners at the RIIL State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, November 4! A big shout out to the entire Classical Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams for their efforts in the race! Go Purple!



VEAZIE STREET STUDENT LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

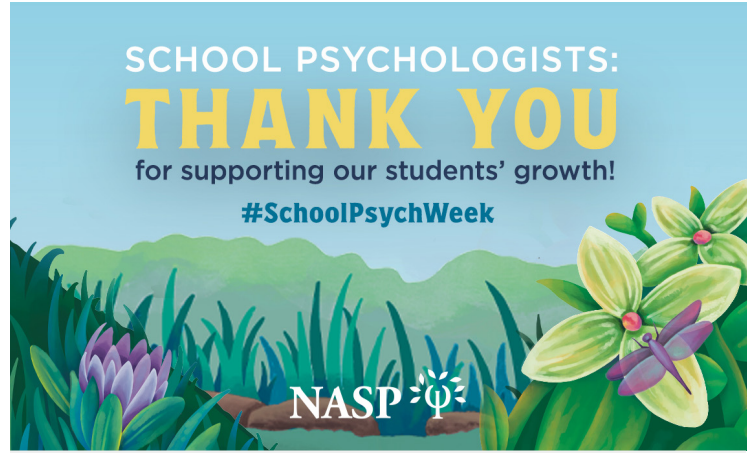
Congratulations to the Veazie Street Elementary School students who were named members of the Veazie Street Student Leadership Team! They are committed to being leaders and role models for younger students in the halls and classrooms at Veazie Street. Congratulations to all!

AROUND THE DISTRICT



REDESIGN EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Redesign Information events at **Mount Pleasant High School, JSEC, Hope High School, Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School, and DelSesto Middle School!** We are very excited about the academic programs that will be integrated into these five schools for the 2024-2025 school year. To learn more about the School Redesign efforts, please visit <https://www.providenceschools.org/redesign>.



NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WEEK

November 6th-10th is **National School Psychologists Week**, and we want to give a huge shoutout to our amazing school psychologists here in PPSD! Thank you for all you do for the students, staff, and families in our District. The social-emotional support that you provide to those who need it does not go unnoticed, and we are so thankful to have you as part of our PPSD family! Happy National School Psychologists Week! [See a video from Superintendent Montañez here.](#)



REDESIGN EVENTS

Lots of our schools got into the Halloween spirit last week on October 31st! Check out some of the creative costumes worn by our students and teachers at **Frank D. Spaziano Elementary, Mary Fogarty Elementary, Vartan Gregorian Elementary**, and more!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

○ **VETERAN'S DAY (No School)**
Monday, November 13, 2023

○ **FSA-ID NIGHT (for 12th grade students)**
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
CCRI Liston Campus
1 Hilton Street, Providence, RI

○ **SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR**
Thursday, November 16, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
PCTA
41 Fricker Street, Providence, RI

○ **THANKSGIVING RECESS (No School)**
Wednesday, November 22, 2023 -
Friday, November 24, 2023

**NOVEMBER
SCHOOL MENU**



**FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
OFFICE**
(F.A.C.E.)

✉ **FALL SESSION 2023**



Zoom Link

**[https://us02w
eb.zoom.us/j/8
2726881756](https://us02w
eb.zoom.us/j/8
2726881756)**

November

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

MLL : My child is a Multilingual Learner. How can I support at home?

All grades

Families of Multilingual Learners (MLL) will have the opportunity to learn more about MLL programs, Rights of Learners and Families, and more.

Thursday, 11/9
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Healthy Families – Meal planning on a Budget

All grades

Learn more about the MyPlate and how we can use our 5 food groups as a guide to choose healthy options on a limited budget.

Tuesday, 11/14
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Learn about the various opportunities for Parent and Community Engagement

All grades

Learn about the various opportunities the district has available to engage families; FROM supporting student learning and building capacity of families TO contributing parent voice in school or district decision making. Learn from current active and involved parents.

Tuesday, 11/28
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Community Asthma Programs at Hasbro Children's Hospital

All grades

Learn about the various programs and helpful benefits you can consider for your family.

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

Social-Emotional Skills: The Building Blocks of Optimal Learning and Health & Wellness

All grades

Become aware of the 5 social-emotional competencies and skills. Learn to recognize these skills and how they impact your health and wellness throughout the stages of life.

December

Tuesday, 12/5
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Post-Secondary Planning and Financial Aid Awareness After High School

Middle and High School

This session will provide an overview of post-secondary options and financial aid opportunities.

Wednesday, 12/6
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Providence Promise -An Early Scholarship Program for college and career

All grades

Learn about another financial aid opportunity for college and career.

Thursday, 12/7
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Responding to teen dating violence

All grades

Participants will learn skills to identify and respond to teen dating violence.

Thursday, 12/14
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Continuing Education and Job Placement at CCRI

All grades

Are you looking for a job? Interested in changing careers or learning a new skill? Attend this session to hear more about opportunities to attend free trainings or to return to school.



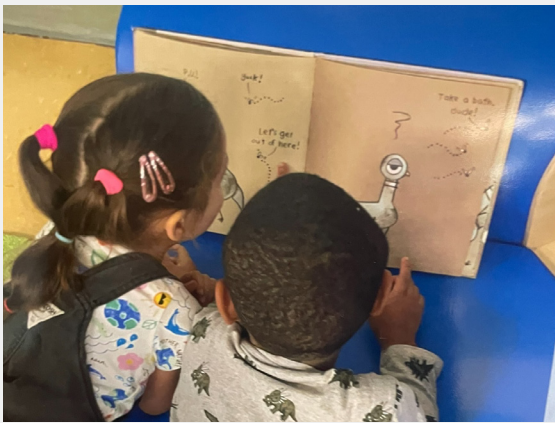
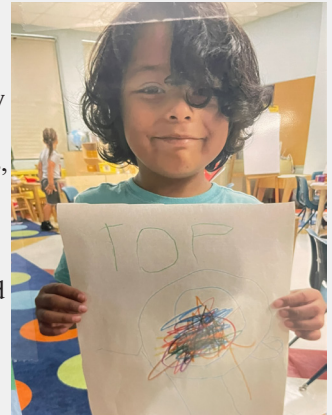
PRE-K CORNER

VEAZIE STREET PRE-K STUDENTS

Veazie Pre-K students are working hard in their interest centers. They are working on imaginary play. Through imaginary play, students learn critical thinking skills, how to follow directions, build expressive and receptive language, increase social skills, and how to manage their emotions. Imagine what they are cooking up in their “kitchens.”

YOUNG WOODS PRE-K STUDENTS

Pre-K students are working so hard with their friends in their interest centers! They are investing in the world around them, working on taking turns with their friends, and developing fine and gross motor skills. Pre-K teachers are taking students for walks in the outdoor environment to learn about the changes happening around them! Ask your Pre-K student what they are doing so they can practice their oral language, they have so much to say!



IT'S GOOD NEWS: PPSD IN THE PRESS

- [PVD Schools to host Redesign Meeting](#)
ABC6 YouTube, October 17, 2023
- [WaterFire event lights up the night in honor of education and breast cancer awareness](#)
WJAR, October 1, 2023