



PROVISO AREA FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

"QUALITY EDUCATION WITH CARE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT".

PAEC CENTER BOARDROOM - 9:00 AM

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **FASTBRIDGE DATA**
The information is attached.
3. **H.R. PRESENTATION**
 1. Recruitment Presentation
 2. Job Fair - West 40

Presentation by Mrs. Trainette Latham, MSL
Human Resources Coordinator/Medicaid Coordinator
4. **CLOSED SESSION**
5. **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**
6. **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**
7. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
 - B. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**
 - C. **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT**
8. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **PRESS PLUS 120**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT REPORT**
 - B. **PROPOSED 2026-2027 PAEC CALENDAR**
2026-2027 Proposed Calendar
 - C. **RESOLUTION FOR THE NON-RENEWAL AND HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**
 - D. **RESOLUTION FOR THE NON-RENEWAL AND HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF
SUPPORT STAFF**
 - E. **VERIFENT — ANNUAL BUSINESS REVIEW**
 - F. **RCM AMENDED RATES FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS**
10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT**
 - A. **CURRENT DISTRICT CHILD COUNT 2025-2026**
The information is attached.
 - B. **CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND CLASSROOM STAFFING PATTERNS 2025-2026**

The information is attached.

C. TRANSITION REPORTS

The information is attached.

D. INITIAL REFERRALS

The information is attached.

E. POLICE REPORTS

PAEC High School - 2

-- A student had an illegal substance upon arrival.

-- There was suspicious activity in the parking lot by a student.

PAEC Elementary - 1

--A staff member requested police after the student spit in his face.

F. PAEC ACTIVITY FUND

The information is attached.

G. PAEC EVENTS

The information is attached.

a. PAEC INSTITUTE DAY ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH.

Dr. Don Parker presented "Getting to Know You: Creating Connections Across Cultures."

b. PAEC ACADEMY BLACK TIGER'S BASKETBALL TEAM.

The Basketball team advanced to the State Championship game on Friday, March 13th in the Junior Division.

c. BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

H. PAEC ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The information is attached.

I. PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES

The information is attached.

11. OTHER/ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

12. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Thank You Card - Bishop Dr. Claude Porters' Family

13. MEETING RECAP

1) The Executive Board voted on the PAEC calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

2) The Executive Board voted on the "RESOLUTION FOR THE NON-RENEWAL AND HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS."

3) The Executive Board voted on the "RESOLUTION FOR THE NON-RENEWAL AND HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF SUPPORT STAFF."

4) The Executive Board voted on Press Plus 120.

5) HR Coordinator, Mrs. Latham presented on the recruiting efforts.

6) Data Coordinator, Mrs. Kural presented on the math and reading data results from the Fastbridge assessments regarding PAEC students.

14. **NEXT MEETING**

The next PAEC Executive Board meeting will be on April 9. District #___ will be facilitating the meeting. _____ will be the Executive Board Representative for the Governing Board's _____ meeting.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

PAYROLL AGENDA
January 2026

	<u>GROSS</u> <u>2/13/2026</u>	<u>FICA</u> <u>2/13/2026</u>	<u>RETIREMENT</u> <u>2/13/2026</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u> <u>2/13/2026</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2/13/2026</u>	
Education Fund	\$ 508,277.26	\$ 21,657.80	\$ 17,598.59	\$121,443.36	\$ 668,977.01	PAYROLL 02/13/2026/15/26
Building Fund	\$ 20,439.29	\$ 1,555.48	\$ 1,138.49	\$4,100.58	\$ 27,233.84	
TOTALS	\$ 528,716.55	\$ 23,213.28	\$ 18,737.08	\$ 125,543.94	\$ 696,210.85	

	<u>GROSS</u> <u>2/27/2026</u>	<u>FICA</u> <u>2/27/2026</u>	<u>RETIREMENT</u> <u>2/27/2026</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u> <u>2/27/2026</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2/27/2026</u>	
Education Fund	\$ 509,876.35	\$ 21,731.31	\$ 17,602.83	\$128,245.99	\$ 677,456.48	PAYROLL 02/27/2026
Building Fund	\$ 17,781.09	\$ 1,352.14	\$ 990.42	\$4,350.23	\$ 24,473.88	
TOTALS	\$ 527,657.44	\$ 23,083.45	\$ 18,593.25	\$ 132,596.22	\$ 701,930.36	

**ACTION ITEM – PERSONNEL REPORT
March 2026**

A. Employment

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Levi Mull | 1:1 Program Assistant (D93) -Rehire |
| Effective Date: | February 23, 2026 |
| Bill Rate: | \$26,413 (pro-rated to \$13,646.72) |
| Location: | PAEC Academy |

B. Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Levi Mull | 1:1 Program Assistant |
| Termination Date: | February 24, 2026 |

C. Transfers

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Cheryl Leach | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCA)-209 |
| Effective Date: | February 22, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAECCenter CCA) -D209 |
| 2. Gwen Washington | 1:1 Program Assistant (Proviso West)-209 |
| Effective Date: | February 18, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (PAECCenter CCA) -D209 |
| 3. Gwen Washington | Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF) |
| Effective Date: | February 25, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (Proviso West) -D209 |
| 4. Kayla Jordan | Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF) |
| Effective Date: | March 5, 2026 |
| Transfer from: | 1:1 Program Assistant (Proviso West) -D87 |

D. Terminations

There are no terminations at this time

E. FMLA

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Amell Ramadan | Speech Language Pathologist |
| Effective Date: | February 23, 2026 through April 20, 2026 |
| | Will be a Block Leave and will not be utilizing available sick or personal days. |
| 2. Evelyn Carreto | Records Secretary/Interpreter |
| Effective Date: | January 28, 2026 through July 28, 2026 |
| | Will be a Intermittent Leave and will be utilizing available sick, vacation, or personal days. |

ACTION ITEM – CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS
March 2026

A. Delta T

1. Karla Thompson	1:1 Program Assistant -D209
Effective Date:	March 3, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$33 per hour
Location:	PAEC Center (CCA)

B. Amergis

1. Demetrius Anderson	1:1 Program Assistant -D209
Effective Date:	February 19, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$45 per hour
Location:	PAEC Center (Autism)
2. Delize Newson	1:1 Program Assistant -D92
Effective Date:	February 19, 2026
Bill Rate:	\$45 per hour
Location:	PAEC Center (Autism)

C. Reliance Care Group

1. Ericka Smith	1:1 Nurse -D87
Effective Date:	February 25, 2026
Bill Rate:	Private
Location:	PAEC Center (CCA)

D. Contractual Transfers

1. Kamery Bonds	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCF)-D87
Effective Date:	March 5, 2026
Transfer from:	Program Assistant (Proviso West)
2. Karla Thompson	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)-D209
Effective Date:	March 5, 2026
Transfer from:	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center CCA)

E. Contractual Terminations

1. Demetrius Anderson	1:1 Program Assistant (PAEC Center Autism)-D209
Termination Date:	March 5, 2026



PAEC Programs - March Events

ALL PAEC PROGRAMS

March 2 – NO SCHOOL – Casimir Pulaski Day

March 13 – 1 hour late start (9:45am)

March 27 – 1-hour early dismissal (1:45pm)

March 30 – **SPRING BREAK BEGINS**

(Return on Tuesday, April 7)



Casimir Pulaski



PAEC ACADEMY

Basketball Practice 3:00-4:30pm – March 3

Morton College Trip - Wear PAEC Spirit wear – March 4

Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm

Basketball Practice 3-4:30pm – March 10

Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm – March 11

Basketball Tigers go to State – March 13

8th Grade Transition meetings – March 16 & 17

Green River Floats - Wear Green – March 17

Erin's Law Presentation

Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm – March 18

Soccer Game vs Thompson Middle School – March 19

Talent Show!! – March 20

Soccer Tournament/Sportplex – March 21



PAEC CENTER

March 10 – Winnega, Marrea

March 17 – Green River Floats

March 27 – Easter Egg Hunt



PAEC HIGH SCHOOL

March 6 – Postsecondary Options & Career Fair

March 7 – Nacho Fundraiser

March 13 – End of 3rd Quarter

March 17 – St. Patty Day Donuts



PAEC EARLY CHILDHOOD

Dentist – March 10

PAEC ELEMENTARY

March Madness Munch – March 20





Programas de PAEC – Eventos de Marzo

TODOS LOS PROGRAMAS DE PAEC

Marzo 2 – NO CLASES – Dia de Casimir Pulaski

Marzo 13 – 1 hora entrada tarde (9:45am)

Marzo 27 – 1-hora salida temprana (1:45pm)

Marzo 30 – VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA
(Regreso Martes, Abril 7)



Casimir Pulaski

¡FELICES
VACACIONES DE
PRIMAVERA!



ACADEMIA DE PAEC

Practica de Baloncesto 3:00-4:30pm – Marzo 3

Paseo a Colegio Morton - Usar Playera de PAEC– Marzo 4

Practica de Futbol (Soccer) 3:00-4:30pm

Practica de Baloncesto 3-4:30pm – Marzo 10

Practica de Futbol (Soccer) 3:00-4:30pm – Marzo 11

Los Tigres de Baloncesto van a nivel de Estado – Marzo 13

Juntas de transicion de 8 grado – Marzo 16 & 17

Helados de Rio Verde – Usar verde – Marzo 17

Presentacion Ley de Erin's

Practica de Futbol (Soccer) 3:00-4:30pm – Marzo 18

Juego de Futbol (Soccer) contra Escuela Thompson – Marzo 19

Evento de Talentos!! – Marzo 20

Torneo de Futbol (Soccer) / Sportples – Marzo 21



CENTRO DE PAEC

Marzo 10 – Winnega, Marrea

Marzo 17 – Helados de Rio Verde

Marzo 27 – Busqueda de Huevos de Pascua



PAEC EDUCATION TEMPRANA

Dentista – Marzo 10

PAEC HIGH SCHOOL

March 6 – Feria de Opciones Postsecundaria
Y Dia de Carrera

March 7 – Recaudacion de Fondos - Nachos

March 13 – Fin del tercer cuarto

March 17 – Dia de donas de St. Patty

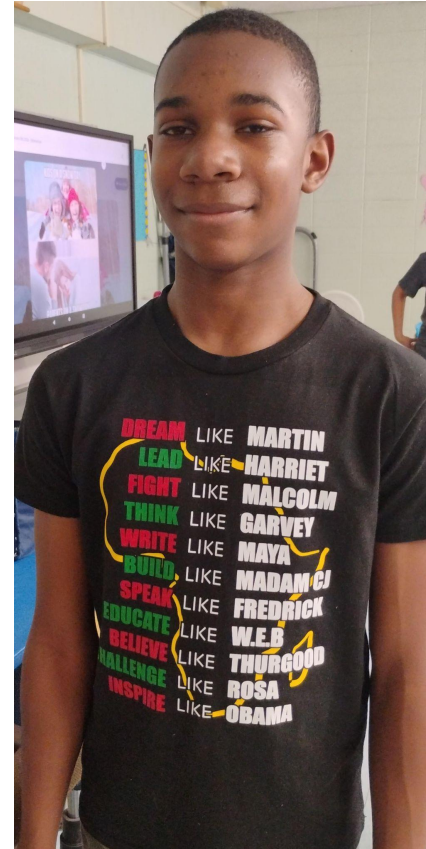


PAEC ELEMENTAL

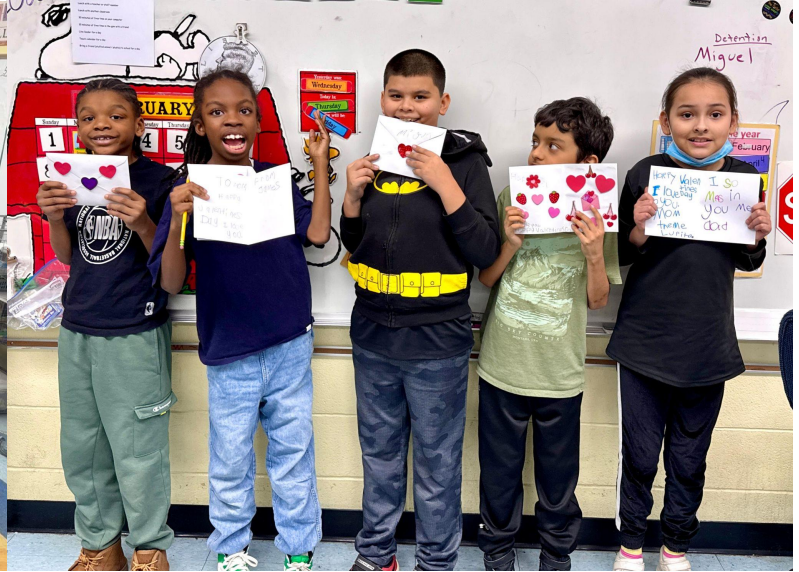
Locura de Marzo/Masticar – Marzo 20



February 5th - Wear Red, Green, or Black



February 13th - Valentine's Day Celebrations



February 13th - Valentine's Day Pizza Party



February 19th - Inventor's Day



February 19th - Inventor's Day



February 20th - Bowling Trip



February 27th - Proviso East Visit for 7/8th Graders



Sheri Olczak

How long have you been at PAEC?

I started at PAEC in 2007, part time as a sub.
I became full time in 2009 at PAEC Academy.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

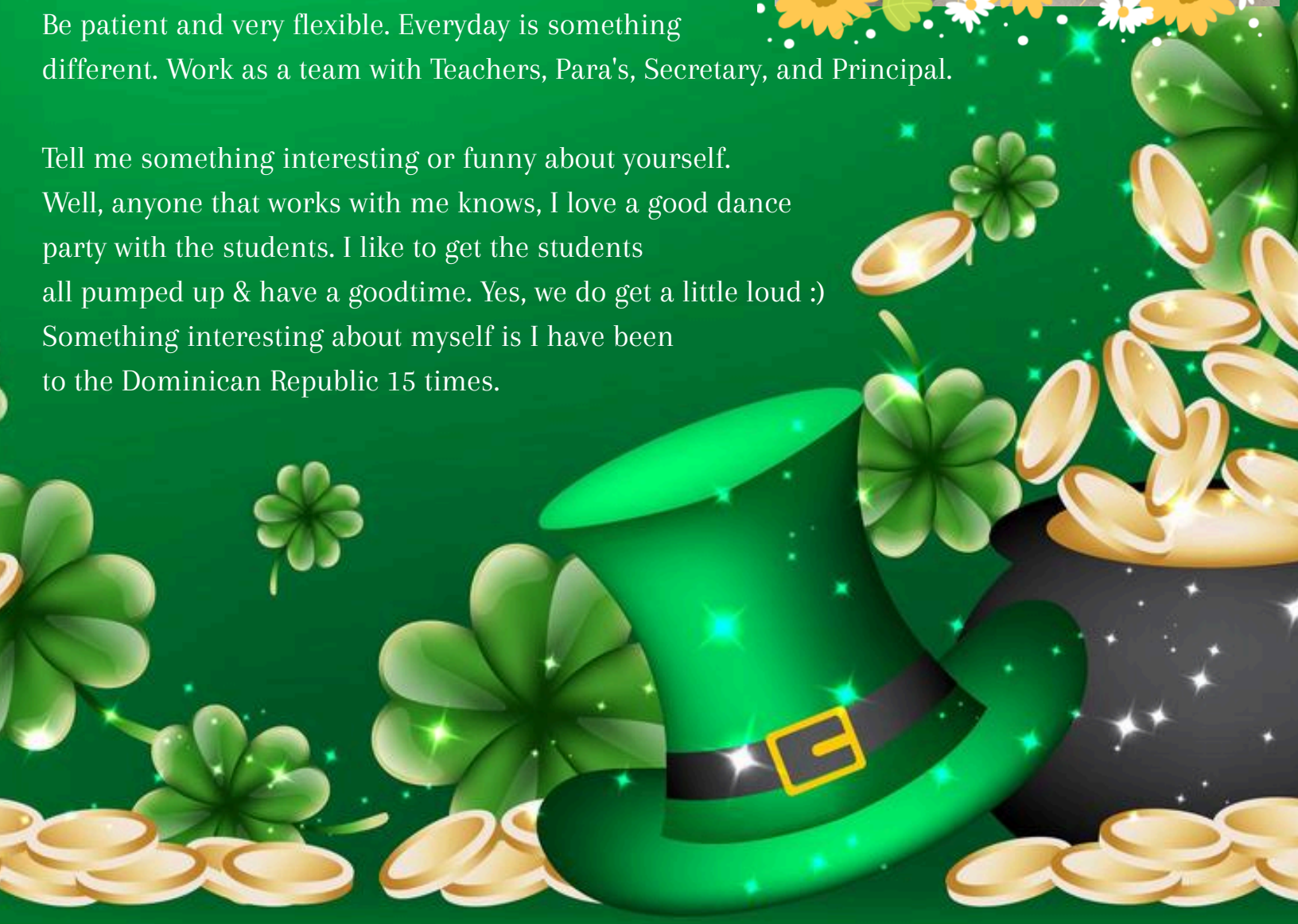
I enjoy taking care of the kiddos, It is such a rewarding experience. Just seeing the excitement and joy in the kids faces. It is truly priceless. I also have the best co-workers. We are a big family that support one another. It is a pleasure to come to work knowing you are supported by your co-workers :)

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Be patient and very flexible. Everyday is something different. Work as a team with Teachers, Para's, Secretary, and Principal.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Well, anyone that works with me knows, I love a good dance party with the students. I like to get the students all pumped up & have a goodtime. Yes, we do get a little loud :)
Something interesting about myself is I have been to the Dominican Republic 15 times.



Araceli Reyes

How long have you been at PAEC?

I've been at PAEC since 2022

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

The chance to engage with young minds and be involved in their growth.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Be patient. Remember that every day brings new rewarding challenges, and new knowledge towards growth.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I love ALL animals, but I'm Dogs #1 Fan!



Jill Collins

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC/Center for 26-ish years.

I started as a Wraparound Coordinator & the Coordinator of the HOTSTUFF After School/Summer Camp Programs. I've been in the School Social Worker position at PAEC Center for 21 years.

Only 2 more to go.....

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy watching students make connections & grow no matter how small their successes are. I also enjoy watching staff connect with the students. We have students with unique needs that other people simply don't have the bandwidth to work here. It takes a special person.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Get out of your own way. Stop, look and really LISTEN!

Learn something new. Do a little soul searching. You don't know everything & you're definitely not better than anyone else

(despite what some people may think). Don't come to work & blame others.

Don't lie about people and situations for self-serving reasons. Instead, take responsibility and just try to do your best every day. Isn't that what we expect from our students?

Bring new ideas & opportunities. Don't get sucked into the negativity.

Have some FUN for Pete's sake! Remember why you're here. In case you forgot, we're here for the students. Seriously, lean on each other & learn from each other.

If any of my words made you mad, good--please grow from it

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

I'm a first-time grandma, meemaw, granny, etc. (haven't decided on my new name yet).

Can't get enough of my grandson, Callum (Cal for short).

I'm gearing up for retirement which will be bittersweet when the day comes. For now, it can't come fast enough because I'm getting too old for this....



Mary Jane Ford

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PACE 4-years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy working with the students, parents, faculty and administration to assist in creating future leaders.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Enjoy what you do and be true to yourself and those you come in contact with.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Interesting - I'm completing my PhD in community psychology.



Melissa Manzo

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at paec for 11years.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

Working as a program assistant in a classroom is enjoyable because you're part of students everyday learning experiences and growth.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

My advice would be have lots of patience and have a positive attitude.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself

I am a kind person who's always tries to find the best in people and loves to help lift them up.



Abbey Melling

How long have you been at PAEC?

18 years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy helping students gain the mobility, strength, and confidence they need to fully participate in their school day and learning new skills. I also enjoy collaborating with teachers, staff, and families to create supportive environments that help each student succeed.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Keep it fun and stay flexible! The best progress often happens when therapy feels like play. Be creative, meet students where they are, and don't be afraid to think outside the box. Every day in a school setting can look a little different, so having a positive attitude and being adaptable makes all the difference – for both you and your students.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

Like many people, I got into biking during the pandemic. I live about a mile from the lake, so when the weather is nice, I'm usually riding the lakefront path or exploring different neighborhoods in the city. I also adopted a rescue dog named Gus, and now he joins me on our biking adventures in a backpack. He wears goggles, which tends to get a lot of smiles and photo requests along the way.



Amanda Corso

How long have you been at PAEC?

This is my 19th year at PAEC!

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

For me it's those little victories.

When a student masters one of their goals or makes an improvement academically or behaviorally it's extremely rewarding.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

Patience, flexibility and having a sense of humor when needed!

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

"I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it people like me!!!"



Kimberly Baratta

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for 8 years

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

The most enjoyable part of my position is being able to interact with the students daily. I love seeing them everyday and being a part of their school experience.

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

If you would like to excel working with this population is to respect the students and their abilities.

I have worked with this student population for over 20 years and cannot imagine working with any other population. I worked for over 14 years as a SPED teacher and understand the rewards and challenges that come with working with our students. My biggest piece of advice is to observe, observe, observe. Especially the non verbal students. They are communicators & the more you observe the more you understand them.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

The most interesting part about me is that I have a passion for travel and try to travel as often as possible, I have been to over 30 countries and look forward to traveling to more.



Sarahmaya Rosado

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC Center for one year now.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy my job because I am a 1:1, it is rewarding to build trust with my student and see their learning and behavior progress since I have arrived.

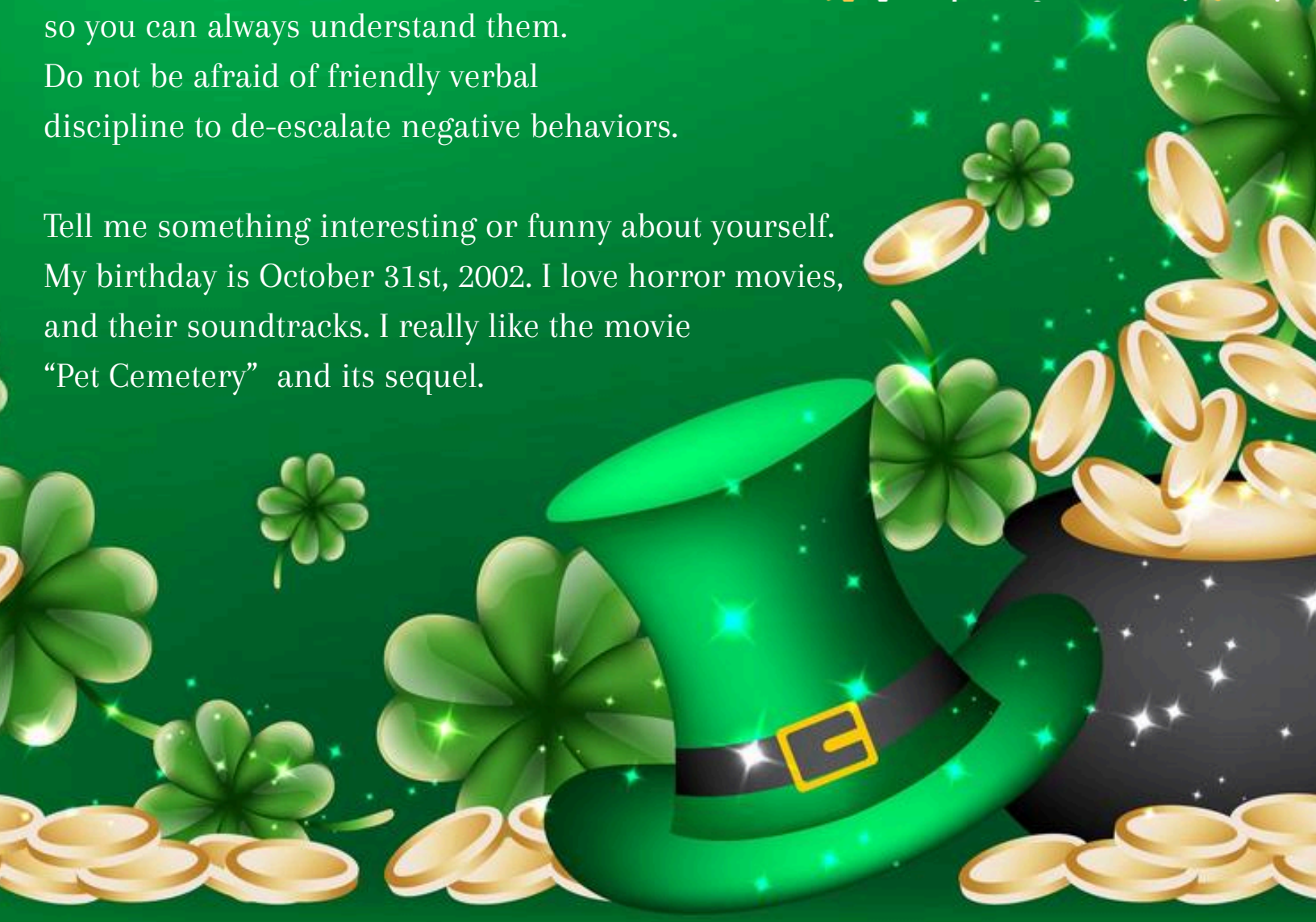
What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

My advice to others in my position would be to analyze your student's regular needs and cues, so you can always understand them.

Do not be afraid of friendly verbal discipline to de-escalate negative behaviors.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

My birthday is October 31st, 2002. I love horror movies, and their soundtracks. I really like the movie "Pet Cemetery" and its sequel.



Tania Didiw

How long have you been at PAEC?

I have been at PAEC for 15 years.

What do you enjoy about your job/position?

I enjoy watching the children grow through the years and the smiles they give me when they greet me .

What advice would you give to others in your position to help them excel?

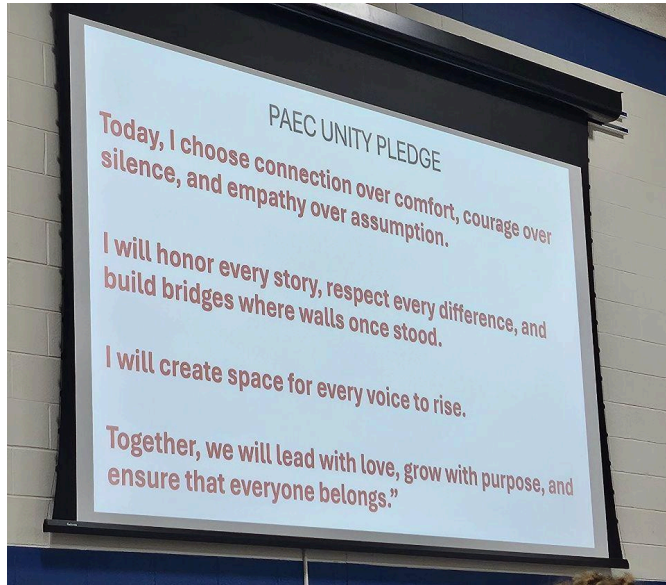
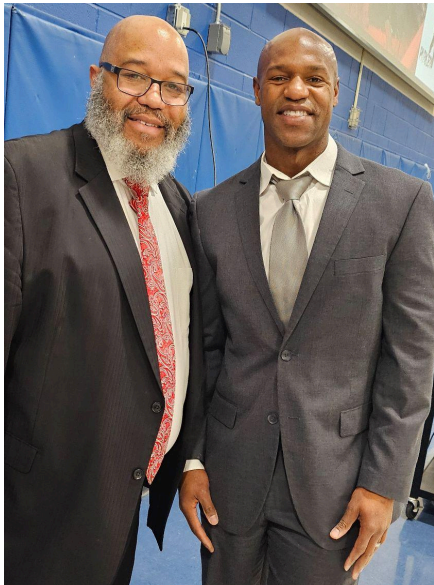
The advice I would give to others is not to take things personally.

Tell me something interesting or funny about yourself.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my daughter as we feed and take care of our 2 chickens. Yes, I have a Brahma and a Sapphire gray chicken named Daphne and Vilma.



PAEC Staff Institute Day
**Dr. Don Parker presented "Getting to Know You:
Creating Connections Across Cultures."**

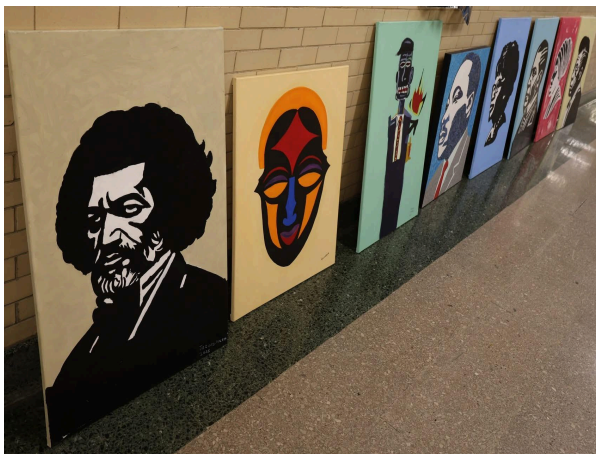


BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Proviso East



BLACK HISTORY ART DISPLAY PROVISO EAST HIGH SCHOOL



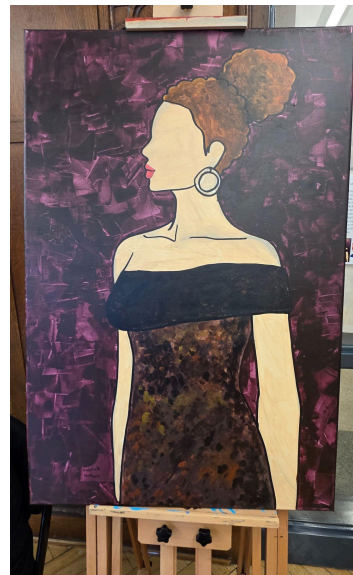
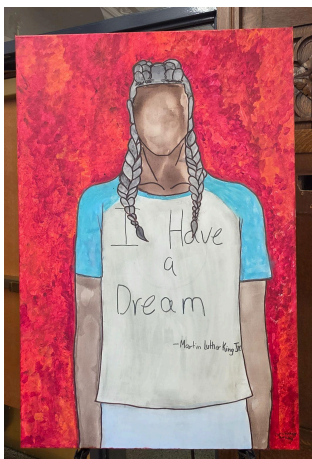
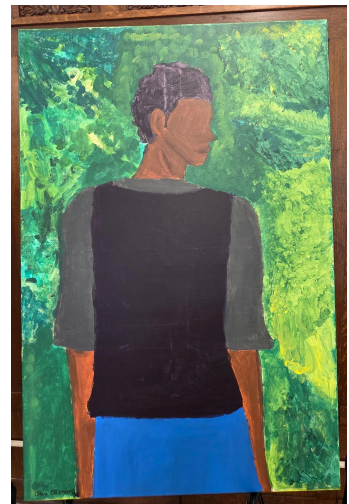
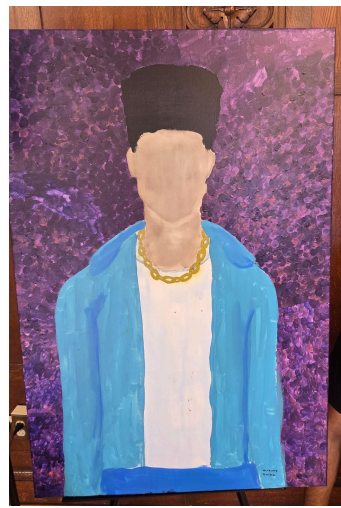
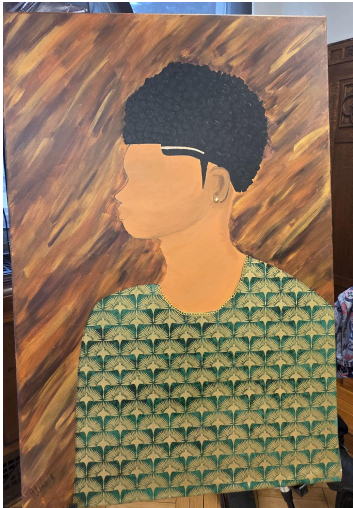
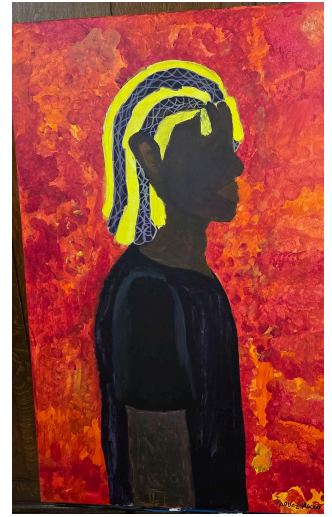
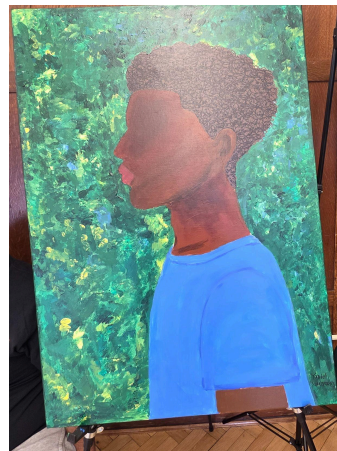
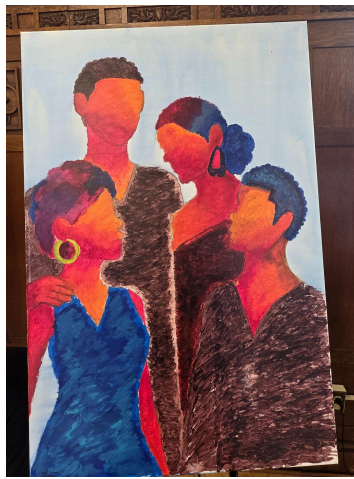
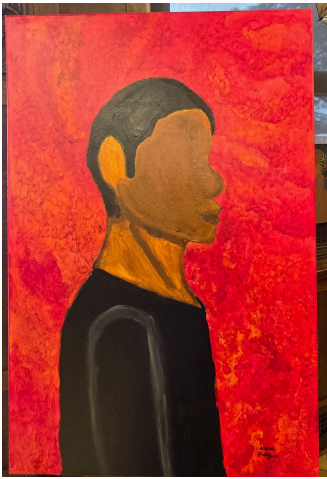
BLACK HISTORY ART DISPLAY PROVISO EAST HIGH SCHOOL



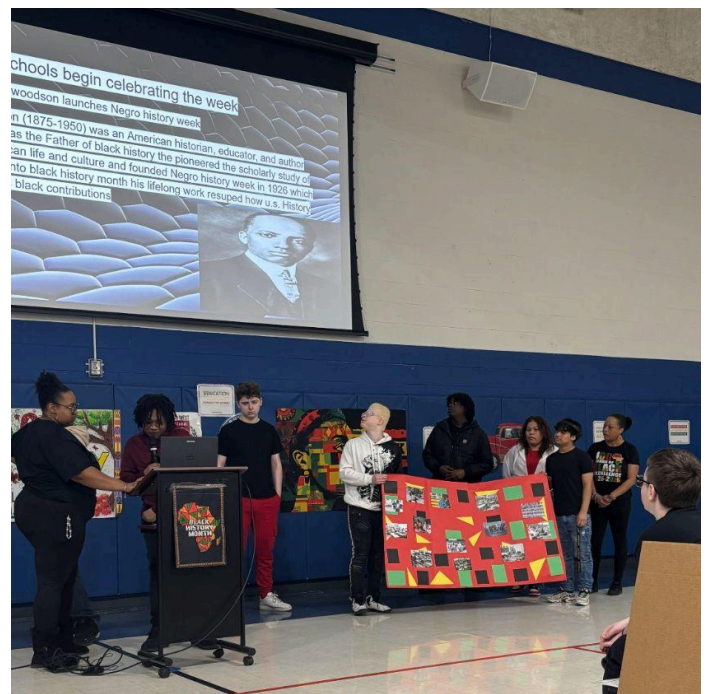
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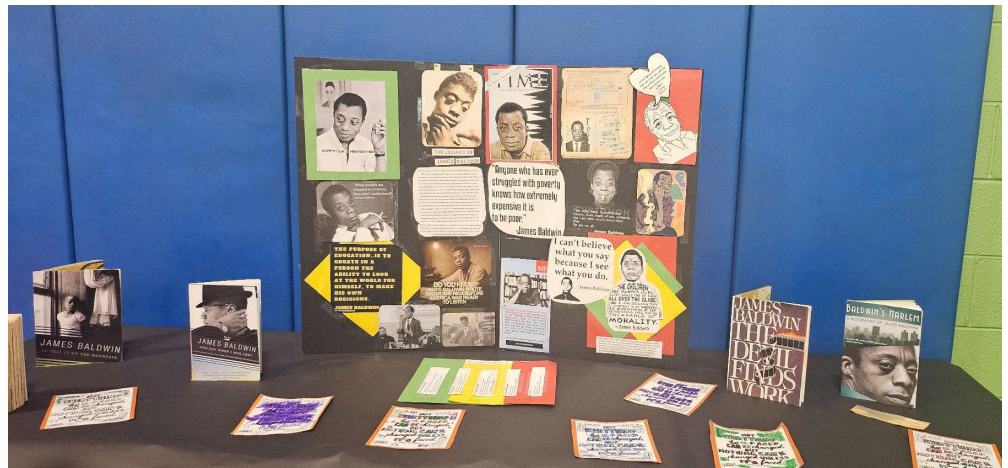
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Celebration PAEC High School



PAEC CENTER Black History Celebration



Black History Celebration 2026



PAEC PROGRAM UPDATES FROM FEBRUARY 2026

PAEC Academy at Divine Infant

1) Academics

ACCESS for ELLs testing was successfully administered during the final week of February. Students completed the assessment using the traditional paper-based format this year. As part of our continued effort to modernize assessment practices and increase student familiarity with digital testing platforms, we are exploring the transition to a computer-based administration model for next school year.

In preparation for the upcoming Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) testing window, student accommodations are currently being reviewed and entered to ensure compliance with IEPs and documented instructional support. IAR will be administered using a computer-based format, and staff are working to ensure all students are adequately prepared and supported for this testing environment.

Additionally, the building is in active discussion regarding the potential adoption of the McGraw Hill Corrective Reading curriculum. This program is being considered as part of our broader efforts to strengthen foundational literacy instruction and provide targeted intervention support. While movement toward purchase is underway, the discussion remains open as we continue to evaluate implementation logistics, training needs, and budget considerations.

2) Festivities

On February 19th, Academy proudly hosted an Inventor's Day as a culminating celebration of Black History Month. Throughout the month, classrooms intentionally dedicated instructional time to exploring significant historical events, influential leaders, and the lasting contributions of Black innovators whose work has shaped our society. Instruction focused not only on historical knowledge, but also on helping students understand the impact of perseverance, creativity, and problem-solving in advancing equity and progress.

As part of the Inventor's Day experience, students honored Cornelius Henderson, a distinguished civil engineer known for his work on major infrastructure projects. In recognition of his contributions to engineering and bridge construction, each classroom was provided with popsicle sticks, masking tape, and foam sheets and challenged to collaboratively design and build a functional bridge. The activity emphasized teamwork, planning, creativity, and applied problem-solving skills.

Each class approached the challenge with a unique design perspective, resulting in a wide range of innovative structures. Ms. Kramer, our occupational therapist, evaluated each bridge for structural integrity, adding an engaging and authentic testing component to the experience. Students observed as their designs were assessed, celebrating both successful builds and the learning opportunities that emerged through the process. The event was a meaningful, hands-on extension of classroom instruction and a memorable way to celebrate our Black History Month programming.

3) Interesting Information

March 2nd - No School/ Casimir Pulaski Day

March 3rd - Basketball Practice 3:00-4:30pm

March 4th - Morton College Trip / Wear PAEC Spiritwear

March 4th - Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm

March 10th - Basketball Practice 3:00-4:30pm
 March 11th - Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
 March 13th - 1 hour late start/School starts@9:45am
 March 13th - Basketball Tigers go to State
 March 16th & 17th - 8th Grade Transition meetings
 March 17th - Green River Floats/Wear Green
 March 17th - Erin's Law Presentation
 March 18th - Soccer Practice 3:00-4:30pm
 March 19th - Soccer Game/Thompson Middle School
 March 20th - Talent Show !
 March 21st - Soccer Tournament/Sportsplex
 March 27th - 1 hour early dismissal/Dismissal@1:45pm
 March 30th - April 6th - Spring Break

4) Program Information

a. Student Count	70
b. Transitions	1 - One student began the transition to partial enrollment in D88.
c. Time Outs	0
d. Restraints	0
e. Hospitalizations	1
f. Police Involvement	0
g. Restorative Meetings	1

PAEC Early Childhood

ACADEMIC UPDATE

This month the students learned about amazing African American inventors, musicians, athletes, and great achievers in honor of Black History Month.

The students' also learned about kindness and friendship in honor of Valentine's Day.

ACADEMIC TARGETS

COLORS: Purple, Pink, and Gray

SHAPES: Circle, Square, Triangle

LETTERS: J, X, Y

NUMBERS: 8, 9, and 10

TRANSITIONS-

There were no student transitions this month.

STUDENT COUNT:

We had 2 students join the program this month from District 87.

There are 19 students in the two half day EC classrooms and 7 students in the full day EC Autism classroom that are counted under the PAEC Center numbers.

Half day Classrooms		Full Day Classroom	
87	12	87	4
88	0	88	1
92	4	92	0
93	3	93	2

PAEC Therapeutic Day Elementary School

Art as a Mirror: Honoring Black History Month Through Self-Reflective Art for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities



During Black History Month, art becomes a powerful lens for self-reflection — mirroring the tradition of African American artists who turned inward to transform personal pain, identity, and resilience into visual truth. Like many artists, who painted their own realities with raw honesty, students can use self-reflective art to look within, process their emotions, and see their own beauty as worthy of expression. This practice not only supports healing and self-regulation, but affirms that their experiences — like those of the trailblazers before them — hold profound meaning and power.

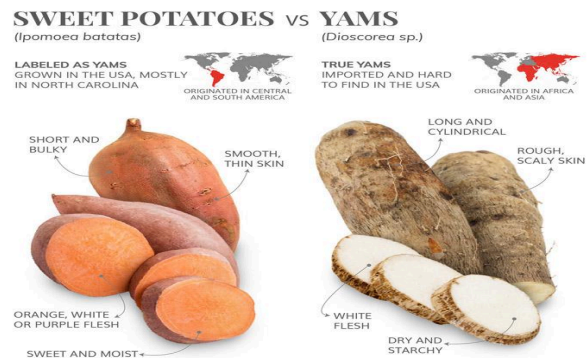
Nourishing Community: Celebrating Black History Month Through Food and Tradition

As part of our Black History Month celebration, our school community came together to share a meal rooted in culture, history, and connection. Students and staff enjoyed a spread of beloved dishes from Priscilla's— yams, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed peas, and greens — each carrying a story that stretches far beyond the plate.

Yams, long cultivated across West Africa, made their way to America through the African diaspora and became a cornerstone of Southern cooking deeply tied to African American tradition.

Black-eyed peas, also originating in West Africa, carried deep cultural significance and are historically associated with luck, resilience, and survival — particularly tied to New Year's and freedom celebrations within the African American community.

Together, these dishes did more than feed our students — they opened doors to conversation, cultural pride, and a shared sense of belonging. For our students especially, sitting together in community and experiencing culture through something as universal as food is a meaningful step toward building community, connection, safety, and joy.



Upcoming events
 March Madness Munch

Transitions	3
Hospitalizations	0
Police/Ambulance Calls	1
Restraints	4
Isolation Room	3
Restorative Meeting	1

**PAEC Therapeutic Day High School
Academic Operations & Assessments**

- **Assessment Outcomes:** Winter MAP Testing has been concluded, with significant score increases to be presented by Ms. Kural.
- **College Readiness:** Pre-ACT and ACT testing protocols are finalized, including the completion of accommodation inputs and technical systems readiness.
- **Calendar:** The third academic quarter will conclude on Friday, March 13, 2026. **School Culture &**

Student Engagement

- **Black History Month:** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme, “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” was successfully observed. PAEC HS would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Clark-Smith, Ms. Mason, and the guest judges for their support during student presentations.
- **Upcoming Observances:** March programming will center on Women's History Month with the theme “Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future.”
- **Activities:** Student engagement activities for March include a St. Patrick’s Spirit Day and a donut fundraiser.

Student Transitions

- Home School Returns: Six students successfully transitioned back to their home schools during the first semester.
- Full-Time Re-entry: One student returned to PMSA on a full-time basis effective January 5, 2026.
- Upcoming Transitions: Additional updates will be provided as transitions are finalized

Physical Management	0
Police Calls	2
Ambulance	0
Restorative Meeting	8

25-26 Current Enrollment: 74 Students

Vocational Program Update

Submitted by Lindsey Holsten, Vocational Counselor

This month has been productive and focused on expanding partnerships, strengthening student supports, and preparing for postsecondary transitions.

Community and Business Partnerships

We held a conference call with the owner of several Wingstop franchise locations to discuss a potential work partnership. Following the conversation, we provided him with our Work Partnership Agreement, which he is currently reviewing. We look forward to continuing discussions and establishing this opportunity for our students.

We are also excited to share that we officially launched a new work partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities. At this time, one job coach is accompanying two student workers to the site twice weekly. This partnership is providing valuable, hands-on work experience in a supportive environment.

Student Programming and Employment Preparation

The Level Up Program continues to run twice per week. We currently have three senior students who attend and demonstrate a strong commitment. These students are actively working through employment assessments and building skills necessary for workplace readiness.

Mr. Tafoya has been overseeing the daily task of running the work programs, ensuring appropriate staff coverage as job coaches accompany students to community work sites. In addition, Mr. Tafoya supports students by helping them create a professional resume that will help with their applications for part-time employment opportunities in the community.

Graduation Monitoring and Transition Planning

The principal and vocational counselor met with staff at Proviso East High School to review senior student progress and confirm that all East students remain on track for graduation. We are pleased to report that they are currently meeting requirements. We will be coordinating with Proviso West High School in the near future to complete the same review process for West students.

Postsecondary Options and Career Fair

Ms. Holsten has been actively coordinating our upcoming Postsecondary Options and Career Fair on **Friday, March 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** All board members are warmly invited to attend.

At this time, we have 23 confirmed agencies participating. These organizations represent a wide range of opportunities, including local community colleges, trade schools, apprenticeship programs, and both public and private workforce development agencies. This event will provide students and families with direct access to valuable resources as they plan for life after high school.

PAEC Center School

The month of February flew by as usual!

The curriculum for the students in the elementary school is Unique Learning Systems (ULS). Using ready-made, standards-aligned lessons, automated differentiation and built-in assessment tools, ULS helps teachers save time and ensures that every learner gets the support they need.

The High School students use the Education Associates Job Ready curriculum. This series adapts the curriculum provided in the Career Exploration series to meet the needs of students with the most significant

challenges. With multiple modes of instruction, no student is left behind. The following list the different titles within the series

- Cleaning
- Maintenance
- Filing
- Greenhouse Work
- Grocery Clerking
- Hair Care & Styling
- Mail Handling
- Table Service
- Child Care
- Animal Care
- Autobody Repair
- Caregiver
- Carpentry
- Food Service
- Health & Nutrition
- Retailing
- Skin & Nail Care
- Small Engine Repair

PAEC Center also uses subscriptions to Scholastic magazines as supplemental instructional materials. Additionally, current events such as Black History month for February are also recognized and curriculum developed around the day.

During the month of February PAEC Center also hosted the Black History Fair on February 25th. The students' presentations were engaging, interactive and student lead . Each classroom produced posterboard highlighting an African American individual who was relevant to the education and presented it on a table in the gym. The other classrooms were then able to visit the gym on a rotating basis to celebrate these achievements!

Proviso East classrooms hosted their Annual Black History Art Fair. Each student sat by their work of art and discussed them. Additionally the Proviso East Choir sang the Black National Anthem as well as three other songs. We had field trips from PAEC Academy and PAEC Center to Proviso East to support their fellow classmates.

Valentine’s Day celebrations occurred during this month as well as celebrating President’s Day.

Debbie Eyasu also led the annual Black History Month luncheon for staff. There were over 40 participants!

Information	Number of Occurrences
Student Count	178
Transitions	0
Time Outs	0
Restraints	0
Hospitalizations	0
Police Involvement	0
Restorative Meetings	0

PAEC Behavior Intervention (BI) Team

The PAEC Behavior Intervention Team continues to provide behavioral support and interventions to reduce undesired behaviors within the Proviso Township school districts.

The Elementary Behavior Coaches are required to implement the 8-Week Step Interventions & Support Curriculum developed based on evidenced-based data and documenting.

Total number of PAEC Behavior Intervention Team: 13

Active: 13

Projected total number for 2025/2026 Academic Year is (14)

The elementary level position has been posted on.

Proviso East: 3

Proviso West: 3

District 87: 2 (currently 1)

Floating Coaches (District 88, District 93, District 92, District 87): 6

There were a total of 0 individual student referrals in February.

There were a total of 1 classroom referrals submitted in February.

District 87 - Jefferson Primary | Sunnyside Intermediate | Whittier Primary | Riley Intermediate | Northlake Middle School | MacArthur Middle School

Whittier Primary:

Early Childhood Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student to provide behavior management strategies such as daily sensory walks, intentional transitions and a token economy to encourage positive behavior. *Update:* The Interventionist continues to provide additional support based on administrators request, 3 days per week.

2nd Grade Classroom Referral: The assigned Interventionist has begun coaching the teacher on the implementation of effective interventions to improve the overall function of the class. Interventions have included a token economy system, implementations of class expectations, sensory room/calming corner and mild consequences due to high levels of disruptive and disrespectful behavior.

Jefferson Primary:

Kindergarten Referral: (On-going support) Student has been assigned to an Interventionist due to excessive and extreme attention seeking behaviors. The student is currently receptive to the Lilo & Stitch behavioral chart designed to reduce behaviors such as screaming and blurting out. The Interventionist will be transitioning out of the classroom upon the return of Thanksgiving break. *Update:* The Interventionist continues to support the classroom due to its transition into a full classroom intervention.

First Grade Classroom Referral: (On-going support) An Interventionist has been assigned to collaborate with the teacher on strategies to reduce highly disruptive behaviors such as excessive talking aloud, off-task, wandering the class among all students. *Update:* The Interventionist will be gradually transitioning out of the class and a behavior plan of support will be provided to continue implementations of effective strategies.

First Grade Referral: An Interventionist has been assigned to a student to provide additional support, as this student's behavior is not extreme. Support will consist of reminding the student to focus during instructional time and maintaining attentiveness to improve academics.

2nd Grade Referral: Due to the students low attendance, observations have been paused. *Update:* As of 2/22, the student has returned to school. The Coordinator will be observing the student soon.

1 New First Grade Classroom Referral: There have been several students (3) referred within this class due to excessive disrespect towards the teacher. Students have displayed physical aggression such as throwing items and desks, and have collectively caused significant disruptions within the classroom. An

Interventionist has been assigned to incorporate antecedent modifications (seating changes), a reward system for the on-tasks students, review of expectations and mild consequences for extreme behavior.

District 92 - Lindop School

District 88 - Lincoln Primary | Grant Primary | Grant Elementary | Lincoln Elementary | McKinley Elementary | Thurgood Marshall Elementary | Roosevelt Middle School

McKinley Elementary:

Kindergarten Class Referral: (on-going support) An Interventionist was assigned to coach the teacher on structuring the classroom with a schedule, class expectations, task/time management, transition methods, and token economy systems. *Update:* Interventionists continue to provide on-going support as needed.

First Grade Class Referral: A Student has been assigned an Interventionist due to displaying inappropriate behaviors with peers. The Interventionist will be working with the teacher to implement/demonstrate appropriate peer dynamics through social stories and role-playing.

First Grade Referral: Updates will be provided once observations are conducted and parents consent to behavioral support.

Lincoln Elementary:

Kindergarten Student Referral: (On-going) The student has been observed exhibiting problem behaviors outside of the classroom. An Interventionist has been assigned to provide additional support with the student during special activities such as gym, art and recess.

Fourth Grade Referral: Student was referred due to impulsive and aggressive behavior. An Interventionist was assigned to address behavior regulation and coping skills. *Update: Student has transferred out of the school.*

First Grade Referral: The student has been referred due to excessive chatting and disruptions within the class setting. The student also exhibits behavior that limits his ability to participate during instructional time due to their lack of focus. An Interventionist has been assigned to assist with improving focus by implementing a pre-mack principle/reward system to encourage classroom engagement and minimize disruptions.

Fourth Grade Referral: A student was referred due to continuous oppositional and defiant behavior with adults, as well as attention seeking behavior. An Interventionist was assigned to aid in reducing classroom outburst, oppositional/noncompliance, as well as implementing a differentiated reinforcement technique to receive appropriate attention.

Grant Primary:

Early Childhood Student Referral: (On-going) An Interventionist has been assigned to the student and is currently in collaboration with the special education program to support with implementing a behavior/safety and crisis plan. The Interventionist also has incorporated a behavior plan based upon a token economy and small consequences for extremely disruptive and physically violent behavior. *Update:* The Interventionists have continued to provide on-going support due to high levels of disruptive behavior.

2nd Grade Referral: An Interventionist has been assigned due to several students displaying highly disruptive behavior such as yelling aloud, running around the classroom and oppositional behavior. The Interventionist is working with the teacher while implementing interventions such as antecedent modifications, token economy and mild consequences (limited free time) for defiant behavior.

District 93 - Hillside Elementary

District 209 - Proviso East High School | Proviso West High School | Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy

There are currently a total of 6 Behavior Interventionists assigned to 209; 3 are assigned to East and 3 are assigned to West.

Interventionists are now assigned to Grade Level Principals. The 209 district is in the process of implementing a new MTSS Framework within the Panorama system to ensure equitable and responsive circles of support for students. All BI's will follow this framework under the leadership of Deans and their assigned GLP's.

PAEC OT/PT Department

Staff adjustments: None at this time.

Activities of the department:

1. The AT Team continues to conduct SETT meetings to come up with appropriate assistive technology to address the educational needs of their struggling students.
2. The OT/PT/AT Lead, OT, and PT on the AT Team attended the ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) from 1-29-26 through 1-31-26, learning new advances in assistive technology.
3. On 2-2-26, the OT/PT/AT Lead met virtually with the representative from Fun and Function to discuss equipment needs and how the equipment in B Pod at PAEC Center was working out.
4. The AT Team attended a staff meeting on 2-04-26 in-person with a virtual link available from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.
5. The OT/PT Department attended a staff training on Enhancing Culturally Responsive Teaching Through Relevance and Relationships by Dr. Don Parker on 2-06-26 in-person from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.
6. The OT/PT Department attended a staff meeting on 2-12-26 via Google Meet from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
7. On 2-13-26 from 8:00 am - 8:45 am, the Lead OT/PT/AT, PAEC Social Worker, and PAEC Principal began a discussion with Sertomastar representatives about garden plots at the Broadview Park District that PAEC could maintain to work on vocational skills. A subsequent meeting was held with PAEC teachers to explore this idea further on 2-18-26 at 8:00 am - 8:45 am.
8. The Lead OT/PT/AT, PAEC Social Worker, and PAEC Principal collaborated with Sertomastar and Broadview Park District on hosting a Valentine's Dance event at the Broadview Park District for kids (PAEC and community children) 16+ years old on 2-13-26 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. All the students who attended had fun.
9. On 2-18-26, the OT/PT/AT Lead and SLP Lead met with Select Savvy representatives to discuss working relations with contract therapists currently at PAEC.
10. The OT/PT/AT Lead attended a projections meeting to begin discussions of assignments for next school year on 2-18-26 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at PAEC Center.
11. The OT/PT/AT Lead attended the Special Events Meeting for Prom via Google Meet on 2-20-26 and 2-27-26 from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM.
12. A piece of equipment that came in February included the following: Bean bags for a classroom at PAEC Center, Disco ball for sensory, Pegs & Boards for Fine Motor activities, and Pencil Sharpeners for writing activities. See pictures below.



Thank you,
Julia Barnicle, PT, DPT, ATP
OT/PT Department Lead
AT Department Lead
708-450-2143

PAEC Psychology Department

Ms. Melissa Gomez has rejoined us as a psychologist through PediaStaff. She is an experienced bilingual school psychologist who will be servicing Proviso East High School. Melissa previously worked as a contractual psychologist in District 87 at Riley Intermediate and Northlake Middle Schools. We are excited for Melissa to be rejoining us!

Ms. Dayle Ashley-Harding continues to provide TPBA, ADOS, and evaluation support for EC programs at PAEC, District 87, and District 93. She also is helping with parochial evaluations.

Ms. Annamaria Iarrapino has been leading MTSS meetings at Riley Intermediate School. She has been effective in providing intervention and data management support to team members. Annamaria continues to collaborate with related services staff and teachers at Riley and Northlake.

Annamaria also completed CSTAG Level 1 training online and Level 2 in person training with Dr. Cermak at the February 6th Institute Day in District 87. Additionally, Dr. Cermak completed Reunification training with administrative and student services staff at the Institute Day.

Dr. Michael Cermak has been interviewing internship candidates for the 2026-2027 school year. So far we have had more intern applications than ever before with 7 applicants interviewing in person with Dr. Cermak. The decision day is March 13th so Dr. Cermak will be looking at making the final decision within the next two weeks.

Dr. Michael Cermak attended the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), National Leadership Summit the week of February 22nd. At these meetings Dr. Cermak was given the opportunity to network and learn from leaders from all 50 states and address current topics and issues in education. Dr. Cermak was also able to talk about the many wonderful things happening at PAEC and our member districts as we provide academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and psychoeducational support.

PAEC Social Work Department

1. Ms. Monette Carlos, L.C.S.W., R.P.T. (PAEC School Social Worker – PAEC Early Childhood Program), has completed a total of 8 student re-evaluations this month, coordinated the 100th day of school Spirit Day, and composed social stories for her E.C. parents who are having issues with their child getting on the school bus. Ms. Carlos has covered the following topics in the early childhood classroom groups: Problem-Solving-What to do when we are upset or when someone does not want to share a toy; Matching Emotions; Identifying/Labeling Feelings; Imitating Actions/Listening. Additionally, Ms. Carlos created a few visual posters with problem-solving choices/Various Emotions for teachers to display in their classrooms to remind students what to do. In individual social work sessions, Ms. Carlos has been working on playing functionally, parallel play and cooperative play.
2. Ms. Niane Serrano, M.S.W, and Mr. Patrick Rossi, L.C.S.W.,(PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Elementary School) continue to facilitate classroom social work groups, as well as provide individual sessions with students on their caseload. Ms. Serrano continues to utilize the Second Step Curriculum in her classroom groups, working on identifying problems and coping strategies. Topics covered by Mr. Rossi during his classroom groups include: Circle of Control; Triggers and Warning Signs and Peer Pressure. Additionally, Mr. Serrano and Ms. Rossi worked on Black History projects with students and discussed black social workers who have made a great impact in their profession.
3. Ms. Nicole Peña, M.S.W. (PAEC School Social Worker-PAEC Academy) has been facilitating small/whole classroom social work groups and individual social work for the students at PAEC Academy. Topics covered include: Black History Month, Coping Strategies, and Empathy. Ms. Peña continues to collaborate with other therapists (i.e., SLP, OT & PT) during super group sessions and weekly Lunch Groups. Additionally, Ms. Peña has consulted with teachers and behavioral specialists and has worked with families in providing outside referrals for those students/families in crisis.
4. Ms. Anna Landmeier, L.C.S.W., Ms. Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W., and Ms. Jill Collins, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers-PAEC Center School) continue to meet with their students on their caseload

individually and/or in classroom groups, as well as attended annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered during their social work sessions include: Knowing the difference between kind and unkind behaviors; Identifying the qualities of a good friend; Exploring/Processing/Understanding Thoughts/Emotions; Modeling how to be a good friend; Modeling Self-Regulation Skills; Practicing/Modeling Voice Volume Adjustments and Social Functional Skills. Additionally, Ms. Landmeier, Ms. Collins and Ms. Fields are working with the PAEC Building Special Events Committee is the planning and coordinating of the PAEC Center School Prom and March Events, providing resources/supports for parents during the upcoming spring break, as well as assisting with the guardianship application process and vocational supports.

5. Ms. Haviland Byrd, M.S.W. and Ms. Elivette Agosto (PAEC School Social Workers – Proviso West High School) continue to provide individual & small group school social work services to the students with special education needs and to students in the TST Program, as well as attending numerous annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered in social work sessions include: Substance Abuse; Emotional Regulation; Decreasing Absenteeism, and Coping strategies
6. Ms. Cecilia Feliciano, M.S.W., and Ms. Temika Peace, M.S.W., (PAEC School Social Workers –Proviso East High School) continue to provide individual/small group social work sessions to students on their caseload at Proviso East High School, as well as attending annual review and re-evaluation meetings. Topics covered during their sessions include: Truancy Concerns, Substance Abuse/Use, Peer Relations, and Problem-Solving Skills. Additionally, Ms. Feliciano and Ms. Peace continue to be involved in the Student MTSS Team addressing student concerns involving attendance, grades, behavior and plans for credit recovery.
7. Ms. Donna Kuchera, M.S.W., Ms. Tanaijah Fields, M.S.W., Ms. Ali Kagan, M.S.W., and Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W. (PAEC School Social Workers & PAEC Lead School Social Worker-PAEC High School Therapeutic Day School) and Mr. Elijah Arons (social work intern) continue to provide support to students in crisis to minimize escalations and to provide individual/small group social work sessions covering the following topics: Regulation of Emotions; Self-Awareness Skills; Substance Use/Abuse; Truancy; Implementing Problem-Solving/Coping Strategies; Peer Mediations; Avoiding Social Media Drama and Parental Outreach. Additionally, Ms. Kagan and Ms. Fields have been planning and coordinating the first 2026 Senior Prom Night, which is scheduled to take place on May 1, 2026 from 6pm-9pm.
8. Ms. Lisa Pirrello, L.C.S.W., scheduled, facilitated and completed the PAEC School Social Worker Portfolio-Individual Growth Plan meetings, occurring during Semester II, as well as the Summative Evaluation Review meetings for those PAEC School Social Workers who were identified to be evaluated during the 2025-2026 School Year. Additionally, Ms. Pirrello participated in a West40 training on Enhancing Leadership with Brief Effective Walkthroughs and Feedback.
9. The next PAEC School Social Work Department Meeting and In-Service Training is:
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026
Time: 10am-1pm
Topic: “Crisis Prevention and Response: Understanding the SASS Protocol”
Speaker: Ms. Laura Cruz, LCSW of Leyden Family Services

PAEC Speech/Language Department

- The SLPs attended a virtual department meeting on February 3rd from 11:30-12:30.

- Lead SLP participated in meetings for the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar committee and Policy Committee.
- All available SLPs attended the PAEC Institute Day on Friday, February 6th. Dr. Don Parker presented “Getting to Know You: Creating Connection Across Cultures” in the morning and staff participated in focus groups in the afternoon to share feedback for the creation of the 5 year strategic plan, facilitated by leaders from West 40.
- Lead SLP will be attending an inservice entitled “Leading a Future-Focused School System Through Artificial Intelligence” with other members of the Policy Committee on March 3rd from 8:15-3:30 at the Universal Technical Institute in Lisle.

PAEC Special Olympics

Basketball:

Congratulations and best wishes to the **PAEC Academy Black Tigers!** The Tigers have clearly been putting in tremendous effort and dedication. Their shooting, passing, and defense are all spot on — a true reflection of their hard work and commitment.

The team is more than ready for the State Tournament, and with a win, they will advance to the State Championship on March 13th, competing in the Junior Division. What an exciting opportunity!

With strong parental support behind them, the athletes are especially excited to compete in this year’s tournament. After last year’s first-round loss, the team has shown resilience and determination, and they are prepared to give it their all this season.

A very special thank you to the outstanding coaches at PAEC Academy — Sheri Olczak, Vincent Rocialo, Sara Kline, and Angel Acevedo. Your leadership, dedication, and commitment to developing these athletes both on and off the court have been instrumental to the team’s success. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we truly appreciate all that you do.

Tournament Location:

Southern Illinois University
100 N. University St.
Carbondale, Illinois

We are incredibly proud of the Black Tigers and look forward to cheering them on. Best of luck — play hard and represent with pride!

Go Black Tigers!

Soccer:

Special Olympics soccer started February 18th. We have a full high school team and this year we have 2 teams at PAEC Academy. We are excited to begin the season with some many new players. The state qualifying tournament is one month earlier than in previous year, so we worked hard at work to prepare for it. All 3 teams have a tournament on 3/21 in St. Charles with surrounding area teams. The High School team will travel to District 303 (St. Charles) for a game on 3/12/2026 and the Academy teams will travel on 3/18/2026 to play District 303.