Meet the Future Dr. Johnson: On her way to successful college and career!

GUFE’s own Josiah Johnson is on her way to becoming a Pediatrician or a Cardiologist! Josiah said that it was her work with the Summer STEAM Program that led her to discovering her passion for working with kids. Her involvement with GUFE has inspired her to go to school in a field she loves and to do more for herself.

Josiah learned about GUFE 5 years ago when she was attending School 2. She recently told us “GUFE helped me break out of my shell and from being so quiet.” (We can’t remember that she used to be quiet!) The opportunity to participate in the learning trips, especially being able to visit another country to help others, has been a great experience for her. Her own knowledge has increased through helping the younger students. Josiah decided she wanted to be a Pediatrician or Cardiologist her freshman year in high school. She said that once she got into the medical curriculum at school, combined with what she’d learned through GUFE, her mind was made up. Josiah decided to go to Rutgers because she can use the EMT and CNA license that she earned at PCTI to get a job with Rutgers Medical School.

When she was introduced to GUFE by the group she was really excited. She looks to the adults in the program for support. If she (occasionally) has a bad day, she feels she has an outlet for that with the group. She told us “GUFE is family to me.” In addition to learning so much, the group makes her feel valued.

Josiah has done a lot of service within the community and while some people strive to do better and leave the city behind, she has learned through GUFE that bettering yourself is good, and giving back to your community makes it even better. It has also helped to build a pride in her city that she never had before and given her a new appreciation of the many cultures in Paterson.

For Josiah, growing up in a single parent family has not been easy. Along with the support of her mom and two sisters, she now has the support of her GUFE family as well. Although she is in college now, she still comes home on the weekends to participate in the program.

Kudos to the future Dr. Josiah Johnson! Read more about how we are creating a college going culture for Paterson kids on page 3.
Our View: Who will lead us when we regain local control of our schools?

PEF has been advocating for the end of State takeover of Paterson schools for 20 years now. Back when we began it seemed hopeless but thankfully there’s real reason to hope today. So far, the NJ Department of Education has returned three of the five Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) areas that determine a district’s capacity to self-manage. When the two remaining areas (Instruction & Program and Governance) are returned, the locally elected school board will once again make all the decisions that govern our schools and benefit our children.

When we gain local control, the Paterson School Board will be charged with determining who should lead the district. Hiring a Superintendent may be their 1st major responsibility. Given that this may happen in the next 2 to 3 years, it’s time for us to begin thinking about Paterson’s next superintendent. What qualities do we want in the next superintendent? How will we determine if this person is the very best for Paterson children? How do we attract a candidate that is highly qualified and has the wisdom, vision, experience and know how to help our children succeed?

We are compiling a list of non-negotiables. Here are just a few. In addition to the expected professional qualifications, we believe our Superintendent must:

- Be guided by the question “What will be best for the children?”
- Believe our kids can achieve high standards and be willing to fight for whatever resources we need to get them there.
- Have classroom experience. (no longer a requirement in NJ!)
- Engage and work collaboratively with all sectors of the community – principals, staff, students, teachers, parents and the community - to ensure that students have the supports they need.

What are your non-negotiables for Paterson’s next Superintendent?

As we change administration, we’ll need to engage with the school board to make sure programs that work, such as Full Service Community Schools and The College Track stay in place. One thing we know for sure is that investing in our children’s education is our best chance of improving their futures. We want them to stay on the college and career pathways that lead to a future of economic empowerment, good health and successful careers!
Building Pathways to College and Career

PEF is building pathways for Paterson children. Here are some highlights.

**Paterson Reads!** Our preschool attendance initiative helps schools and families with tools to get kids to school every day. All 6 participating schools reduced chronic absenteeism by up to 67%. 179 kids who were missing too many days are no longer at risk! It was so effective that we were invited to present at the Grade Level Reading Campaign’s National Funders Huddle, The National Head Start Association Annual Conference and the Education Department’s Every Student Every Day conference. Our movie preview PSA was seen by 33,000 movie goers! You can watch it on our website at [http://paterson-education.org/pre-k-every-day](http://paterson-education.org/pre-k-every-day).

**Look how many kids read 50 Books!** This year more than 1,400 elementary students read 50 books supported by school librarians and the Paterson Public Library. We continue to advocate for Paterson Public Schools to return Librarians to the school libraries. This year’s numbers fell by 500 kids because we lost so many Librarians due to budget cuts. 30 community agencies participate in Paterson Reads, a citywide plan to get every child reading on grade level by the end of third grade! We need more volunteers in this effort and would love to welcome you as a partner. Just call us if you’re interested.

**Kids love STEAM!** PEF supports three STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) enrichment programs for teens. Girls United for the Earth (*GUCE*) for high school girls, Matter Observed Through Hombres (*MOTH*) for high school boys and Summer STEAM for 5th through 8th grade students. Through hands-on interactive experiences and service learning projects the young people explore environmental justice and science careers. Last year, the girls focused on food scarcity and sustainable agriculture and the boys studied Astronomy. *GUCE* also went to Grenada last spring. Search “Girls United for the Earth” on Facebook for lots of pictures. All three groups promote personal and academic development for the students. In addition to our wonderful teachers, NY Giants football player and hometown hero Victor Cruz continues to support the program and spent a day hanging out with the kids!
Foundations
ADP Foundation
Community Foundation
Dignity in Schools Campaign
National Economics & Social Rights
The Blum-Merians Foundation, Inc.
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
The Hamilton Partnership for Paterson, Inc.
The Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation
The Nicholson Foundation
The Schumann Fund for New Jersey
Victor Cruz Foundation

Corporations
Bank of America
PNC Bank
PSEG Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
United Way of Passaic County
Wells Fargo Community Relations Group

Local Businesses
Anti-Poverty Network
AXA Advisors, LLC
Barnes & Noble
Bergen County Community Action Partnership
Bogue Systems, Inc.
CAHN Estates
Evans Architects AIA
Franklin Mill Associates
K Cronin & Associates

Individuals
Leslie Agard-Jones
John & Debra Algera
Joseph & Joelene Andriulli
Daisy Ayala
Rosalie & Daniel Bespalko
Nellista Bess
Phyllis Bronson
Rosa Brown  
Patricia & Carl Bruger  
Robert & Katherine Brundige  
Mary Burgin  
Candace Burns  
Cremilda Bustamante  
Debora Catanio  
Anthony & Lena Cavanna  
Marsha Cohen  
Sandra Corpuz  
Candice Cotton  
Edward Cotton III  
Edward Cotton Jr

Ruby Cotton  
Linda Crescione  
Mary Crooms  
Cynthia Czesak  
Leah Dade  
Juvenal Davila  
Anita Dellal  
Lois Deyo  
Sandra Santos Diodonet  
Andrew & Barbara Dunn  
Jamie & Mary Dykes  
Vilma Ferreri  
Juliene Flanders  
Nancy Forsberg  
Carol Friedman  
Joyce Frommer  
Corradina Fronte  
Courtney Glover  
Eddie Gonzalez  
Barbara Gorski  
Janelle Grant  
Renee Greene Levitt  
Miriam Greenhouse  
Robert Guarasci  
Carlos Guzman  
Denise Hajjar  
Annette Hall  
Elaine Harrington  
Norma Harrison  
Keisha Hill  
Amber Huq

Wendy & Samuel Hinds  
Karen Johnson  
Edward Jones  
Stan & MaryJane Karp  
Milsey Katz  
Errol & Delores Kerr  
James Kiemie  
Arnold Kortokin  
Glenn & Carmen Lagatol  
Chris & Sarah Laldee  
Fred Lang  
James LaPorte  
Caroline Lee  
Gwenn Levine  
Tamika Lewis  
Robert Lieb  
Mark & Melissa Litwin  
Kathleen Long  
Sherry Lottero  
Gregory & Beverly Luciano  
Emily Mahon  
Kim Mapp  
Joyce & Stanley Mason  
Karen Mayo-Hogan  
Eileen McCoy  
William Kemper McDowell  
Richard & Sharon McGuinness  
Angela Enid Medina  
Gunnar and Susan Mengers  
Zatiti Moody  
Michelene Moody-Stephens  
Dolores Most  
Hugh & Janice Murray  
Donna Nelson-Ivy  
Laurie & Garth Newell

Daniel Nickerson  
Lorie Nye-Slockbower  
Stella Pasquariello  
Tracy Pearson  
Susana Peron  
MaryAnne Perrotta  
Meredith Peters  
William & Ellen Peters  
Philip Pope  

Jim Pruden  
Cora Quince  
Charles & Barbara Reilly  
Barbara Reisman  
Em Renna  
Stefanie Rotsaert  
Romain Royal  
Karina Sales  
Marla & Mark Sanders  
June Santoro  
Andre Sayegh  
Mireille Schuck  
Arthur Scialla  
Eileen Shafer  
Alisa Shearion  
Yolanda Simmons  
Annamma Simon  
Patricia Sisti  
Caroline Sloan  
Frank Smith  
Glenn & Deborah Smith  
Lisa Smith  
Melinda Smythe  
Marie Stallard  
Harvey & Dorothy Starr  
Irene Sterling  
Karen Sterling  
Lynn Tarant  
Frank & Marlene Tartaglia  
Virginia Thandi  
James & Nancy Thomas  
Jeanette Thompson  
William & Bernadette Tiernan  
Robert & Diane Tirri  
Jerry Traille  
Jeremy Trier  
Kathy Trinh  
Stacey & Nicholas Tzapsatsaris  
Joanna Tsimpedes  
Brenda Turnbull  
Zoraida & Victor Uceda  
Mark & Dawn Van Denend  
Donald and Megan Vanderbeck  
Dorothy Vanderbeck  
Felisa VanLiew
Richard Guy & Elaine Vinopal
Dennis & Carole Vroegindewey
Virginia Whatley
Mamie White-Bridgeforth
Etrudes Williams
Kyrell Williams
Richard Williams
Mary Wilson

Jonathan Chavez
Fonda Collier
Sa ‘Conya Combs
Luz Corado
Orlando Cruz
Akiya Curry
Damien Curry
Kierra Dailey
Robin Daniels
Jamie Dykes
Vilma Ferreri
Eddie Gonzalez
Ellen Greenwood
Nancy Grier
Marqweesha Guthrie
Louise Hanania
Zakiyyah Harrison
Samuel Hinds
Gloria Hunt
Carolina James
Andrew Jaramillo
Raven Jones
Myriam LaTorre
Audrea Leiva
Daniel Luna
Dayanara Magallenes
Sharmin Malik
Kim Mapp
April Martin
Karen Mayo-Hogan
Little McElveen
Irvin Mendoza
Lorie Nye-Slockbower
Elizabeth Nunez
Nelson Olivo

Margaret Padilla
Ryan Palmer
Karen Pearson
Mayra Piereschi
Demile Townes
Jim Quinlan
Terry Reed
Kenyatta Reid
Ty'Jahnay Reid
Kwashon Reid
Jerson Sanchez
Gladys Sinclair
Jareen Singletary
Nicolesloa
Alveria Spencer
Irene Sterling
Sarah Sterling-Laldee
Frank & Marlene Tartaglia
Stacey Tsapatsaris
Ky'Zirah Townes
Jerry Traille
Don Vanderbeck
CeeAsia Walker
Tamika Wiggins
Lutrisha Wilson

Volunteers
Michelle Abel
Anthony Arenes
Doris Arnett-Gary
Linda Arnett-Tinsley
Mario Benitez
Latita Blount
Lillian Branch
Phyllis Bronson
Karen Brown, Esq.
Candace Burns
Gerard Burns
Destinee Canty
Shamaysha Canty
Windella Canty
Pat Caulfield

A huge Thank You and farewell to 2 wonderful board members Michelle Abel and Stacey Tsapatsaris! Welcome to Orlando Cruz and welcome back to Karen Brown!
More Pathways to a Great Future!

More kids are getting on The College Track! PEF trained 19 students from SET, STEM, BTMF and ACT academies at John F. Kennedy HS as College Track Facilitators. The facilitators led college presentations to 402 juniors, helping them to plan for college preparation, financing, access and retention. College Track participants also had opportunities to tour area colleges. Students at SET Academy produced a new edition of A Guide to College from Paterson Students for Paterson Students. For the 13th year, 10,000 students received copies.

We love our teachers! We are so grateful for the Great Falls Teachers Collaborative! Our teachers have aligned STEAM program lessons to Next Generation Science Standards and Paterson Public Schools PPS learning goals. All their lesson plans, field experiences and teacher learning resources reinforce and augment school offerings. They continuously share these resources with other teachers in Paterson and across the country through professional networks and presentations at conferences.

Full Service Community Schools lead the way! Paterson’s Full Service Community Schools initiative provides targeted services such as health, mental health, social and emotional support and enrichment activities to children and their families. The goal is to remove the barriers that prevent kids from learning. PEF is working with the district and community partners to support and possibly expand the strategies to other schools. Paterson schools have become a statewide model!

Have you liked us on Facebook yet? We use social media to drive our advocacy campaigns and get more parents and community members engaged in improving our public schools. The campaigns include Return to Local Control, School Funding, School Facilities, School Board Election Information, Breakfast After the Bell, Solutions not Suspensions, Re-hire Library Media Specialists and Arts Education. Web surfers went to our FaceBook and other social media pages more than 300,000 times over the past year! Join them and us in advocating for our kids.
Save the Date and Join Us!

March 2, 2017: Celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday and “Read Across America week” Call us for help identifying participating schools!

Spring Jazz Brunch TBA: Watch our Facebook page for announcements!

June 1, 2017: 50 Book Club Celebration, at the Paterson Public Library, 5 to 7 pm. Fun, Food, and Books for our most avid readers. We’ll need volunteers!

June 5: How to Run for School Board briefing, PEF offices at 6 pm. Nominating petitions are due July 31st by 4:00pm.


October 16: PEF School Board Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, JFK HS TV

June 2017: Paterson Reads Summer Reading Program at the Paterson Public Library, its branches, and many child serving organizations across Paterson. Help us stem summer learning loss. Many volunteer opportunities are available for you.

November 14: Paterson School Board Election on the General Election Day. Look carefully at your ballot to find the School Board candidates. They are listed on a separate part of your ballot.

The Paterson College Guide is on our Website. We’d love to do a College Track session for your group! Call Doris at 973-881-8914 for more information.

Graduating Every Paterson Child!