



The Patterson Press



November 2009

Patterson High School

75 cents

Success S.T.E.M.s From Creative Thinking Under Pressure

By Chelsea Cesaro

On November 12, 2009 the annual Patterson High School Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) competition took place in the breezeway between the Transportation and Engineering and Professional Health Services academies. Patterson students participated in this event, and were divided into about 15 teams, with 4 people on each team. Each team was made up of students from all academies.

Each team was given a variety of about 10 projects each, and were given time limit of 30 minutes to brainstorm, create, and simulate

each project. Creative-thinking skills were necessary in order to conduct their projects as well as teamwork.

The projects ranged from creating propellers for a windmill to producing electricity. One project, the Clipper Marble Bowl, had a goal of getting as many marbles as possible into an aluminum foil boat that was designed by the teams. Another project was the Egg Drop, where the teammates had to create something that prevented an egg from breaking when dropped from a specified height.

The competition ended at 2:00pm, and a celebration was held in the media center where all the teams and

teachers gathered and ate pizza and cheeseburgers from Burger King. Everyone in attendance was served refreshments such as soda, juice and cookies as well.

At the end of the feast, everyone was presented with a certificate for participating in the competition and at the end, first-, second-, and third- place winners were announced.

Team 15, whose members consisted of Micah Bush, Paul Lee, Daniel Carter, and Marcus Hines won third place with 771 points.

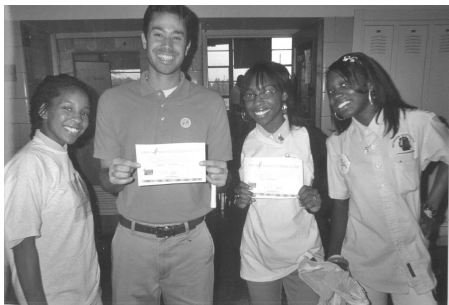
In second place with 811 points was Team 8, whose members were Michael Scott, Jr., Alexander Artis, Mohammed Al Tai, and Robert Harrison.

The first

place winner, with a total of 829 points, was team 11, which included Adrian Booodoo, Julio Cervantes, Quinyardo McClain and Marshall Ammer.



Law and Leadership Program Puts Patterson In the Pink



By Zahia Reguieg

In October, Ms. Brett's Law and Leadership Program raised money for breast cancer research and awareness. The fundraiser, which is called Passionately Pink for the Cure, is a program

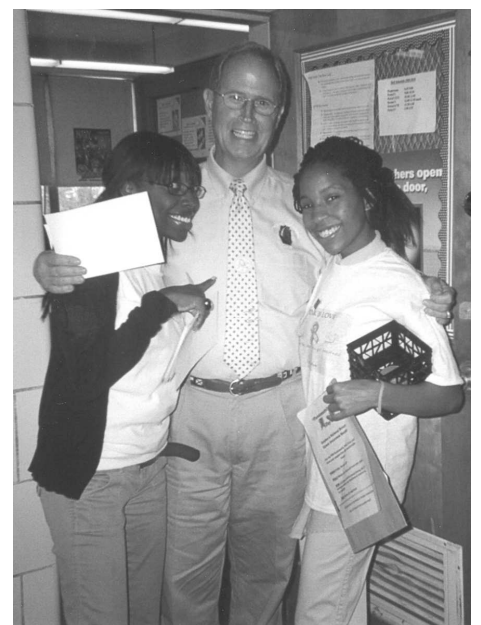
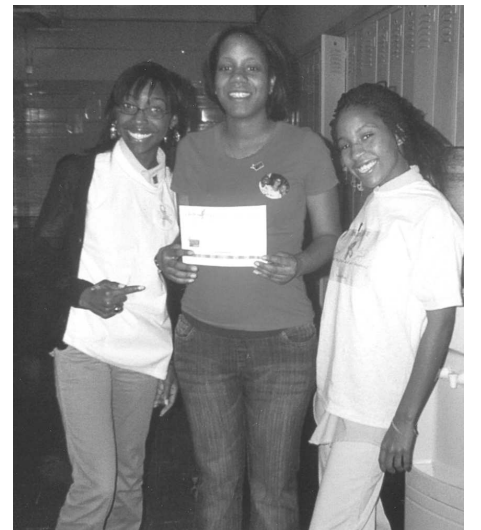
sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Susan G. Koemen was diagnosed with breast cancer but managed to fight it with many treatments. Going through what she did inspired her to work with Passionately Pink to research possible cures for this tragic disease. Passionately Pink benefits so many women because people all over the world pitch in to help and make a difference, including our Patterson students.

To raise money, the Law and Leadership Program (LLP) students sold different pink inspired items like buttons and bracelets. The Art Club and Na-

tional Art Honor Society (NAHS) students worked with the LLP students to create personalized buttons to sell for this important cause. Teachers showed spirit by wearing pink shirts and donated a minimum of five dollars.

Because of the LLP students' hard work, they were able to raise \$551 for Passionately Pink. This shows that with hard work and dedication, many lives can be saved.



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November 2009

Opinion

Send letters
to
pattersonpress@pattersonhs.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I do not believe the Homecoming Door Decorating contest was judged fairly. If one class is winning constantly, I think it is rigged, because how is the same class going to win every year?

Sincerely,
Kheri Pichardo

Dear Editor:

I feel as if the Homecoming Door Decorating contest winner had a fair and square win. All competitors decorated their doors to win and, in my opinion, the best door won.

Sincerely,
Troy Thompson

Dear Editor:

I feel that it was rigged because the same person wins every year. So therefore that means that they are cheating. Also because everybody said they cheated. I think they just like the teacher. They don't open their eyes to look at new things.

Sincerely,
Chirese Howard

The Winner:



OP-ED

More Democratic Elections

By Diana Brown

The opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author, and do not represent the views and opinions of the Patterson Press or Patterson High School or their representatives and affiliates.

On October 30th, 2009 Patterson students celebrated their Homecoming football game at the football stadium. But I don't think Spirit week measured up to the time and effort spent making it happen.

There are two major contests during Homecoming week: election of the Homecoming court, and the door decorating contest. Both of these events would have been better if the voting process was conducted differently.

The way the Homecoming Court election works, you have to get approval from your academy principal. There's nothing wrong with that, but after you have received approval to participate in the election, you get an empty water jug and collect money from students and teachers at school. This is unfair because the it makes it possible for the candidates to cheat by using their own money. Additionally, some people have friends who have more money to spend than others, which means that the election is not democratic (one person, one vote).

To level the playing field and make the voting fair, we should use ballots here at school and the students should vote in homeroom. That way its like a real election. The candidates should have to hang posters and talk to people they don't normally talk to because they want their vote. Every other election is done this way here in school. So why is Homecoming different? Let's make Homecoming the same as Prom. That way we know it is fair and even.

The other Homecoming competition is the door decorating contest. Teachers and their students decorate their classroom doors, with pictures, lights, and everything that deals with Patterson spirit. Then on the morning of the Homecoming game, the doors are judged by four student volunteers. They take pictures of the doors and then write the name of the teacher next to it. Then they go back to a room and look at all of the pictures. From there they choose what door they like the most. Whoever wins the most votes out of four judges wins the contest.

This year the winner was Ms. Brett. She wins every year. Some people think the contest is rigged because she is always winning. Some people think that Ms. Brett does something to get the judges to vote for her, but I think since 3 of the 4 judges were her students that more than likely they felt obligated to vote for her door.

Whether that is true or not, I think we should change up the way the doors are judged. I think we, should take pictures of the doors and put them on a piece of paper, and have the students vote off that paper. This way they don't know what door belongs to what teacher. That way there is no cheating or favoritism. The whole school should be able to vote. That is the only way to make it fair. If Ms. Brett continues to win every single year, other teachers may stop competing. But if the process is more democratic then more teachers may participate.

So let's change it up and make it fun and fair for all. The more fair it is, the more fun it is, and more students will feel that Patterson Pride and Spirit!

(See the decorated doors that were judged in the contest, below and to the left.)

Have an Opinion?

We'd like to hear it. Write a Letter to the Editor in response to one of this issue's articles and deliver it to Ms. Aspensen in Room 213 by November 20th.

The Patterson Press

Adviser:

Ms. Aspensen, Room 213
Arts & Humanities Academy

Editor: Chelsea Cesaro

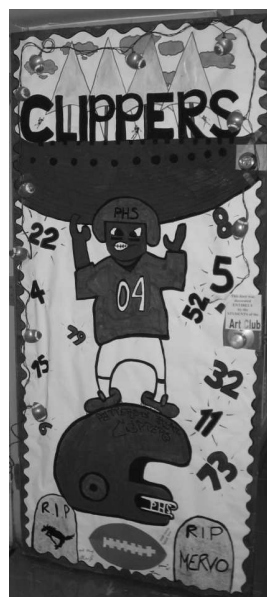
Assistant Editor: Zahia Reguieg

Staff:

Annamarie Besser
Diana Brown
Shawniqwua Gilliam
Angela Gray
Joseph Hawkins
Alexis Lynch
Monica Martinez
Shymia Poindexter
Melanie Pritchett
Noel Rivera
Pete Spyropolous
Michael Webb

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Everyone a Winner at Homecoming

By Melanie Pritchett

On October 30th, 2009 the Patterson Boys' Varsity football team did not disappoint students who had supported them throughout Spirit Week when they defeated Mervo 12-0 at the Homecoming game.

The weather was perfect on game day and the crowd was excited. Throughout the week leading up to Homecoming, Patterson students and staff showed school spirit, and this didn't stop when the game began! The cheerleaders were also showing school spirit by rooting and cheering for our team at the game. All the hard work and practice for our players definitely paid off.

Leading up to Homecoming, students showed their spirit by participating in a variety of activities, including a Homecoming door decorating contest (Ms. Brett kept her reigning title as winner and won the contest once again), election of the Homecoming court, mis-matched shoe day, button day, and wear-your-clothes-backwards day.

There were also concessions at the game, selling foods and snacks such as pizza, bagels,

and candy. The money from the sales also went toward the SGA and a variety of charitable causes.

As for the game itself, at the start of the game there were a couple of accidents, one of which involved one of our cheerleaders, who was stamped by all the football players coming onto the field, running through the breakaway banner. After she got herself up, she went right back to cheering.

Another injury occurred to one of our football players, Aaron Overton but made a comeback right away.

At half-time, the winners of the Homecoming court were announced: Nathan Hunt was Homecoming King, and

Therese Kaponge was Homecoming Queen.

Then the seniors played against the teachers in a game of tug of war (the teachers won).

The varsity Clippers did a great job by scoring the first touchdown. Even though we were missing a few players due to prior injuries (such as Joseph "Speedy" Hawkins, who was unable to play due to a bruised collar bone) in the end we still came out ahead and shut down Mervo, completing a great Homecoming week!



I Miss You

Dedicated to my mother

By Angela Gray

Missed by day.
Missed by night.

As I long to see your face in the moonlight.

I cried when you died,
and I smiled when you were here.

You told me you'd never leave me,
and I believed it was true.

Now all I can say is...I miss you.

One Clipper Down But Not Out!

By Joseph "Speedy" Hawkins

On October 17, 2009 I was playing in the varsity football game against Digital Harbor. During the game I collided with another player, dislocating my shoulder, and bruising my clavicle (collar bone).

After being in this type of accident, I hope that this does not happen to anyone else. The physical pain from my dislocated shoulder and the bruise on my clavicle was the worst pain I have ever felt in my life.

This happened was when I was playing the wide receiver for three plays, not allowing him a catch in three plays. Then the quarterback threw him the ball at the 5-yard line, and as I was battling the ball down my teammate, Chad Bittner, was coming in to get a big hit on the receiver. Chad hit the receiver so hard he got up after the hit and said, "I've never been hit that hard in my life!"

During the collision with the receiver, Chad's helmet hit my shoulder and popped it out of place. After the play, I was on the ground crying, and screaming to distract myself from the pain.

The medic came onto the field and rubbed my shoulder, and then popped it right back into

place. But after he popped my shoulder back into place he took me to the sideline to look at it more closely, and then he saw that my clavicle was swollen badly. My whole left side felt numb, and my clavicle was swollen so bad that I could not move my neck and it feel like my whole collar bone was going inside my chest and I couldn't get any oxygen.

If you play high school sports, one injury can hurt your career. That is why you should have a back-up plan to keep you on the market for another great career. If you are planning to go to college on a sports scholarship, but during a big game you get seriously injured, your scholarship could be taken away. Then you will have to pay for your own college tuition; or worse you might not be able to play your favorite sports at all anymore.

My accident hurt my senior year of football by not letting me play in the Homecoming game or on Senior Day (which is the last game of the season). But my story had a happy ending: my clavicle healed nicely, and my doctor cleared me for wrestling season, so I'm looking forward to another outstanding year of wrestling.

EMT Fire Safety Adventure

By: Melanie Pritchett

There are different types of emergencies that are happening everyday, but what if you could help prevent one? Or what if you could be one of the people who saves a life, or helps a family escape from a fire? Then the job for you would be an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). The job of an EMT is to respond to any emergency and render aid appropriate to the given emergency.

At Patterson High School in the Professional Health Services academy we have students who are interested in pursuing a career as an EMT. On October 3rd these Juniors and Seniors from Patterson went to the Baltimore City Fire Academy on Pulaski

Highway and had a chance to meet with fire cadets, ask questions, and learn new things about being an EMT. They got a chance to try on fire equipment just like the real EMTs! They learned about fire safety, how to control fires, how to operate certain machines.

There were contests held that even included prizes. Brittany Wright, a Senior at Patterson who went on

this trip said, "I had a good experience. I got to meet new people and it inspired me for college, as well as the fire academy."

The students participating in this event received community service learning hours in exchange for their hard work spent at the fire station. A good time was had by all.



Boys' Varsity Soccer Champions in our Hearts

By Michael Webb

The Patterson Varsity Boys' Soccer team had an amazing season this past year. They were undefeated at 13-0 (9-0 in inner city play) until the last game of the playoffs. They also won their second City Championship in a row. Over the past two years the Clippers have gone 23-2. No other soccer team in Baltimore City can match that record.

The Clippers' biggest rivalry every year is with Poly. Either Patterson or Poly usually win the City Championship every year. This past year Patterson beat Poly both times they faced them. The first match was 6-2 at Poly, and the second match was at home and the score was 3-1. Patterson dominated them.

The only seriously challenging team they competed against was Digital Harbor, who was second best in the City. They only had 2 losses, which were to the Clippers in very tight games.

Out of the past 4 years, Patterson's Boys' soccer has had 2 undefeated seasons, one in 06' and one this past year, 09'.

They just had two games in the playoffs. The first game was a blowout 10-0 against Woodlawn. The second was a battle, a work for their money. Unfortunately they lost 3-2 to Urbana in the regional semifinals. They had a long, hard-fought season that was exciting and electrifying. Good luck to the Clippers in next year's season.

Kick the Habit!

By Annamarie Besser

Texting has become the most common form of communication among teens and young adults in America and is fast becoming an addiction due to over usage. Many people don't even realize that they have an addiction to texting. They simply see it as talking to friends, making plans, leaving cute little messages for their bf/gf 's, (for those of you who are not fluent in the language of texting, bf = boyfriend, and gf = girlfriend), and keeping up with the gossip.

You may think texting is simple and fun, but you are sadly wrong! Texting is becoming just as addictive as a drug. I was surprised to read that health care professionals have actually developed a rehabilitation program for people who are addicted to texting. (<http://www.stoutonia.com>)

One of the signs that you might be addicted to texting is, of course, excessive usage. Because some people often text a lot, they tend to neglect their day-to-day activities, such as walking their dog, and keeping their room clean.

Another sign is text withdrawal, which can leave you feeling sad and depressed when texting is not accessible.

Then there is the issue of Tolerance, which is when you need more and more of something to continue to feel good.

Many people over-text. "Hey," "What are you doing?" "Are you there?" "Why aren't you texting me back?" These are

great examples of over texting.

The last sign that you may be addicted to texting is negative repercussions for over usage of texting. An example of this may be social isolation.

If you experience any of these symptoms you may have a texting problem. But never fear, because I am here to help!

Ok, so let's kick that texting addiction with these easy steps to becoming addiction-free.

The first step to kicking the addiction is to limit the amount of time you spend texting. Maybe an hour a night or on your break. Next, give yourself frequent rewards if you meet your goal for the amount of limited time you set for texting, such as hanging with friends after accomplishing your goal.

Try substituting your bad habit with a healthy one, such as going for a job, or a walk. These steps seem simple but for people who are addicted they may be hard and even challenging.

I have two tips for kicking your addiction. My first tip is you have to want to kick your addiction for yourself and not for someone else; because if you do not want to do it for yourself you will not put forth your best effort.

My last tip to text addicts is to reduce your stress. Try exercising more, going out with friends, or get a new hobby. By kicking your texting addiction and putting your phone down for more than a second, you get to experience life, friends, and the world.

Get your nose out your phone and LIVE LIFE!

Finding Their Voices. Telling Their Stories.

By Noel Rivera

On October 13, Sadia Yaris, Therese Kapange and Mayra Llyasova told their personal stories in the school auditorium as part of their recent work with the Jewish Museum of Maryland. These three girls learned how to tell their stories with the help of the Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Program, which is a program that helps immigrant students tell their stories as they learn English.

These three girls were encouraged by Jennifer Rudick Zunikoff, a storyteller with the museum, with the idea that "we all have a story to share."

When they all had finished telling their stories, they told the audience that everyone has a story to tell about our lives and experiences, and each one of our experiences is very important, and it is important to remember how our cultures and our religions make us who we are.

During the past five years, each of these girls began a new experience in a new country (the U.S) which has changed their lives forever. People come to this country for many reasons, maybe because they don't have enough money, freedom, or because of personal problems. In this case, these three girls, Therese, Mayra and Sadia came to the United States because their parents wanted them to be successful.

When they first arrived in

the United States they weren't comfortable living in America. When they started school it was very hard for them because they didn't know anyone and it was difficult to make friends. It was also hard for them because they didn't understand what their teachers were saying because they didn't speak any English.

When they started school they all had trouble with other students because they started to make fun of the way they dressed. Some of the things that were different for them were the language, the climate, and their economic situations.

The three girls said that they have had very important experiences in their lives, but even so they don't want to forget anything about their families back home.

They also talked about the importance of their experiences, and Mayra said that they are important because you don't have a chance to forget where you come from and what your religion is. Their parents wanted them to become better people in life, and be successful in their lives by being the best they can be.

These are two of the most important things for these girls: they don't want to forget what kind of people they are, and they don't want to forget where they came from. Now they are at Patterson High School and trying hard to graduate, go to college, and be successful in their lives.

Paying Attention to Attendance

By: Angela Gray

During the November faculty meeting, teachers received information about the attendance rates at Patterson High School. According to the data, the Business & Finance academy had the highest absentee rate between August 31st and September 18th. By grade level, ninth grade had the highest absences. However, the Success academy ninth grade homerooms only had the second highest absentee rate—their total was increased because the ninth-grade-repeater homerooms in all four of the upper academies have the highest overall absentee rate, and they were included in the ninth grade total. Arts & Humanities had the lowest rate of absent students. Between September 21st and October 9th, the absentee rates increased by approximately ten percent across the board.

At the meeting, teachers

were asked what they could do to encourage their students to come to school. Some teachers said they would call the homes of students, while many teachers said they would provide various incentives in order to get their students to attend school more regularly.

On November 12th, the Patterson Press conducted a survey of Patterson students during homeroom. According to students who participated in the survey, 64% agreed having a uniform free day would get them to come to school more frequently, 18% want extra credit, 13% of students said money would do the trick, and 5% of students said free food would encourage them.

With Ms. D'Anna's permission, Ms. Aspensen, advisor for the Journalism and Newspaper class, will present the findings of the study at the next faculty meeting for discussion.