



# The Patterson Press



October 2009

Patterson High School

75 cents

## Boys' Soccer Keeps Their Title as Champions

By Michael Webb

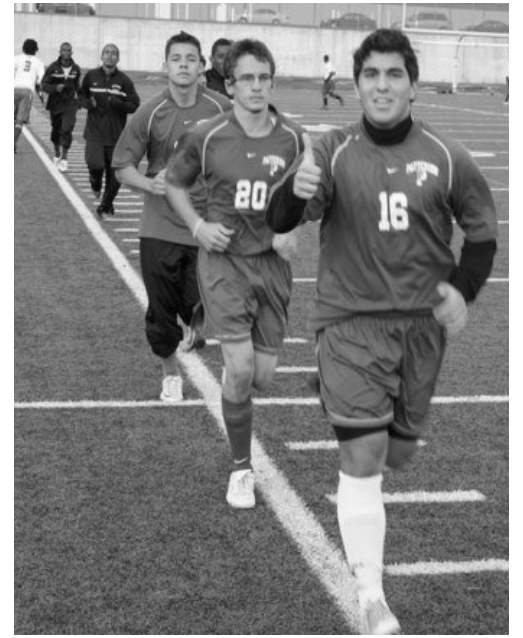
The Patterson High Varsity Boys' Soccer team is now undefeated with a record of 12-0. They have outscored their opponents 81-12 so far this year. The only undefeated soccer team in the metro area, they have yet to be ranked by the Baltimore Sun. At the beginning of the season their coach, Harry Martin, had 5 goals set out this year for the team: 1) Undefeated Season, 2) City Championship, 3) Regional

Championship, 4) State Championship, 5) Every senior going to college. As of this point, they have completed the first two of the five goals.

Leading the way are their eight starting seniors who are Paul Pistorio, Jose, Portillo, Jose Diaz, Adrian Boodoo, Michael Webb, James Tarr, Bash Kamara, and Jorge Garcia. This group of players has won their second city championship in a row. This is the school's forty-first soccer championship. Win-

ning three out of the last four years they have become the elite team in the city as well as the winningest team in Patterson High sports history.

In the upcoming playoffs Patterson is the number one seed in their regional bracket, giving them the upper hand and home field advantage. With their first playoff game on November 3<sup>rd</sup> they expect to stay undefeated and move forward one more step to a regional and state championship.



## At Long Last, a Port for the Junior Class Ship

By Shymia Poindexter

Mr. Alukwu has graciously volunteered to be the Junior Class Administrator for the 2009 to 2010 school year, because no one else would do it. Ms. Zimmerman is now the Junior Class Advisor and she is helping to collect dues. The answer to a frequently asked question:

**NO THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR PROMS WILL NOT BE COMBINED.**

The people who helped set up the packages for the Junior class were Angela Gray, Shymia Poindexter, Ms. Olivia Smith, Ms. Jane Jonzak, Mr. James Kraus and Ms. Laura D'Anna. The

final packages are in:

Package A, which costs \$355 includes pinning ceremony, one prom ticket, the Junior luncheon, a Junior trip, and one yearbook.

Package B, which costs \$ 265 includes one prom ticket, the Junior luncheon, a Junior trip, and one yearbook.

Package C, which costs \$305 pinning ceremony, one prom ticket, Junior trip and one yearbook.

Package D, which costs \$255, includes Junior luncheon, a Junior trip and one yearbook.

Package E, which costs \$175 includes one prom ticket and one yearbook. The prom dates ticket costs \$90. Dues-paying Juniors may only purchase one

prom ticket, and only after dues are paid in full.

The pinning ceremony will be held on Tuesday November 24, 2009 in the cafeteria at 10:00am.

The day, date and time of the Junior luncheon is TBA, and will be held at Toby's Dinner Theater. The Junior prom will be held on Friday May 7, 2010 at the Martin's East Wind from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.

The Junior trip will be Tuesday June 1, 2010 to Dorney Park; the start time is TBA. The Junior fundraising partner is United We Stand.

The dates are Tuesday November 3, 2009 in the cafeteria from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm; Tuesday November 10, 2009 in the Trans-

portation Academy Office at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; and the last one is Tuesday, November 17, 2009 in the Transportation Academy Office at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

These are the payment dates for packages A-D:

The first payment is due November 13, 2009; the second payment is due on December 4, 2009; the third payment is due on January 8, 2010; the fourth payment February 5, 2009; and the fifth payment is due March 5, 2010.

There are no refunds. The Junior pinning ceremony and prom have strict rules that must be followed or Juniors will be sent home and not allowed to attend.

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October 2009

## Opinion

Send letters  
to  
pattersonpress@pattersonhs.com

## Letters to the Editor

For this month's Letters to the Editor, students were asked:

1. What's good about start?
2. What's the purpose of start?
3. What is your goal?
4. What would you rate your teacher?
5. Why did you rate them that?

Dear Editor:

I do not like start. I do not understand the point of start. We have been discussing communities and making portfolios. I would rate my teacher a 2 because she doesn't explain anything that much, she only explains a little.

Sincerely,  
Monia Jones

Dear Editor:

I don't like start. I feel that it's pointless. I didn't really learn anything because we haven't really done anything. On a scale of 1-10 I would give my teacher a 6 because he's a good teacher but I don't like the class.

Sincerely,  
Dina Castillo

Dear Editor:

I feel as though the activities will get better and more enjoyable.

We have been taught how to free write which is putting your thoughts down for a certain period of time. Free writing is my favorite topic because it allows me to express myself. I would rate my teacher as a ten based on her teaching in START. I gave my teacher this rating because she takes the time to explain the topic of that day and goes over it.

Sincerely,  
James Holbert

Dear Editor:

The activities help me cope with other students I am not familiar with. I've been taught where things are in the building. I don't have any favorites yet. I would give my teacher an 8 because she's cool and she doesn't judge students on how they act.

Sincerely,  
Troy Thompson

Dear Editor:

I feel like I am confident and ambitious enough for start. I have been taught sonnets and themes for stories and my favorite topic is writing.

Sincerely,  
Lamar Williams

## OP-ED

## Combined Proms?

By Diana Brown

At a class meeting that was held the last week in September, Juniors and Seniors were told their proms will be combined due to a lack of funding. I believe that the proms should not be combined, because the students are from different graduation classes and have different status. The Junior class has earned a prom, but it should not be as big and exciting as the Senior prom. By that time the Seniors will be finished with High School, so their prom should be a big party!

The Seniors have earned their own prom, and it is the greatest reward for their effort in high school besides their diploma. They will raise enough money with class dues and fundraisers to have their own. But if the Junior class does not raise enough money, then they shouldn't have a prom.

Don't punish the Senior

class by making them share their prom. The Senior class deserves to celebrate the ending of high school without Juniors. No offense to the Juniors be we want our own prom! There has never been a combined prom, so why start now? Just cancel the Junior prom if there is not enough money; or just shrink it down and have it here at school. They can still have a DJ, and just change the location so it does not cost as much.

My opinion is to just cancel or shrink down the Junior prom if you do not have the funding for one. Do not spoil the Senior prom by adding Juniors to it. It is called Senior prom for a reason. Also that's the reason for having the names Juniors and Seniors which means two different classes to celebrate two different things. Seniors will be celebrating the end of high school, and Juniors will be celebrating that they only have one more year.

**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 October 20th.

## The Patterson Press

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**EDITORIAL POLICY:** The Patterson Press' opinion page is intended to acquaint readers with varying viewpoints on matters of concern to teachers and students at Patterson, and our community and business partners and parents. Guest columns and letters to the editor reflect the opinions of the writers only.

**LETTER POLICY:** To enhance the public discussion on issues, the Chronicle encourages letters from our readers. Letters should be no more than 300 words and must include the writer's first and last name (no initials), home address and daytime phone number. Addresses and phone numbers may be used for verification but will not be published. Letters may be edited for grammar, taste, brevity and libel. Thank-you letters, letters in poetic style or dominated by scripture quotations will not be published. We will also not knowingly print letters sent to other publications. Letters may be mailed to the editor at the Patterson Press, Patterson High School, 100 Kane Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224, or by e-mail to [pattersonpress@pattersonhs.com](mailto:pattersonpress@pattersonhs.com).

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# College Essays Do's and Don'ts

By Zahia Reguieg

College admission essays are an important yet stressful part of the college application process. They require a lot of thinking and time because of the way they are scrutinized. Admission essays are an easy way to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Well written essays increase your chances of being accepted into college.

To help you with this process, the Patterson Press has put together a list of "Do's and Don'ts" for writing your college admission essays.

## Do's

- Brainstorm ideas
- Be authentic
- Add a touch of humor
- Write about a topic you are passionate about

## Don'ts

- Write about you're parents divorce
- Make false claims
- Be funny if humor isn't your strongest point (and no off-color humor)
- Be arrogant (it may work against you)

## Twilight Information

By Shawnikqua Gilliam

Twilight School is very important for students who have failed classes, and is held at Patterson downstairs in the Success Academy basement every day from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. If these seniors do not take twilight classes, then they can't walk across the stage or get their diploma or participate in any Senior activities. However, if they do complete their courses, but do not finish them before the end of the school year, then their diplomas will be mailed to them.

Twilight School started this year on October 1, 2009. It is designed for night and evening classes, but it is delivered on the Internet, so students can take Twilight courses during the day if they have access to a computer. Some students can take full-time Twilight classes,

if they need to. Full time twilight school is for students who fail all of their classes and are no longer attending school.

Students can take two classes per session. These classes are just like regular classes that students take in school, except they are delivered online and assignments are submitted online. In each class, there are exams, quizzes and worksheets. The students have to achieve a 60% or higher in order to pass each class.

Twilight School is taught by Ms. Clark, who also collects payments from students. The first session ends February 24, 2010. The second session starts in January 2010, and ends in April 2010.

If you have any questions, about Twilight School, you can contact or see Ms. Clark in room 11A.

## Academy Meetings

By: Alexis Lynch

During the third and fourth weeks in October, all of Patterson High School's Academies had meetings that outlined attendance, grades, behaviors, and dress codes. At each meeting, Ms. D'Anna and the respective Academy Principals spoke about the items that were listed on the code of conduct handed to students. All of the other Academies

The first topic was attendance, which is taken in the new online SMS system each class period to ensure accuracy. The attendance automatically goes to the City Schools Central Office. Mrs. Joneczak outlined the standards that Juniors and Seniors are expected to meet on a grade basis. The standards are not waived

because a person plays a sport, or is in a certain club. The same standards apply to all. The dress code issue was so controversial because of the students being told they could not wear hooded sweatshirts, rosaries, scarves, hats, and coats. These items are not to be worn during the school day. Students are only allowed to wear sweaters or the Patterson sweatshirt in the classroom and the hallways.

Many students felt that this rule was unfair and just plain wrong. Although students may feel this way, they were reminded at the meetings that these rules are part of Baltimore City Code of Conduct. Ms. D'Anna, all of the Assistant Principals, and the teachers are required to enforce the Baltimore City Code of Conduct at Patterson High School.



*Creative Writing*



## Hidden Girl

By Qu'Chae Madison

The girl in the background.  
The girl who no one sees.  
The girl that's invisible.  
Well, what's behind that hidden girl?

A girl full of passion and desire.  
A girl that just wants to break out and be freed from always being looked over.  
A girl that has a love so deep and profound that she just wants to be heard.  
A voice unheard.  
A voice not spoken.  
A heart deep so deep in love that she just wants to scream, because of all the pain and things unspoken, that needs to come out.

This girl has fire and passion, an outlook on life unlined.  
A look in her eyes that just says, "I came to conquer!"  
A smile that lights a room, and an attitude that says, "Don't you bother me, now."  
A zeal and passion for life unseen before, ever.

This girl is bad.  
This girl is dangerous.  
She's out there, and someday you'll find her and she'll find love, happiness and peace.  
Now-n-forever.

Because she fought the battles and she will win the war.  
Never having to live with heartbreak, sadness or pain again.  
But who is she?

## Football Status

By Joseph Hawkins

The Patterson Clippers football team is currently 5-2 and is looking forward to the playoffs, having defeated City College High School, on October 10, 2009 and Walbrook High School on October 15, 2009 in overtime and shutout fashion.

The football team had some ups and downs during the season with two back-to-back losses, but they bounced back with two impressive games against City and Walbrook, beating City 28-22 in overtime.

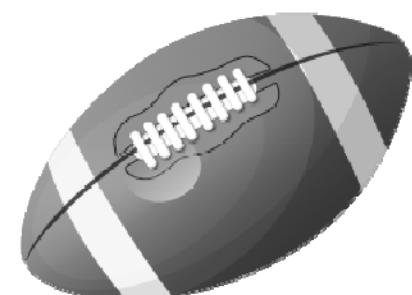
The first overtime in Patterson football in years, Aaron Overton was 6 for 9 in completed passes and an 89 yard touchdown. Tyrell Addison had five receptions for 153 yards and 3 touchdowns. Jonathan Gause was 4-8 and threw for 104 yards and 2 touchdowns. One of the biggest plays of the game was made by Latrell Sruggs with an interception at the goal line. Another interception was caught by Kevin Burton at the very end of the game, to send the game into overtime. Then in overtime, Tyrell Addison scored a touchdown on a slant pattern to end the game.

Other people who contributed

to the win were Joseph "Speedy" Hawkins, Chad Bittner, Donte Winston, Latrell Sruggs, and Derell Harris.

The Walbrook victory was also a shutout. In fourth quarter they did not manage a touchdown or get in touchdown position, but the defense was very impressive in this game. Aaron Overton was 2-4 for 42 yards and one touchdown. Jonathan Gause was 4-5 for 84 yards and two touchdowns. Pete Carter had two receptions, for 42 yards and one touchdown. Deonta Winston had an interception in the second half for 75 yards and one touchdown.

The clippers are looking forward to continued excellent performance at Homecoming and the playoffs.



## *Twilight* sucked the life out of me, but *Marked* is full of vital nutrients

By Annamarie Besser

Vampire stories have been around for years, along with fan clubs, and movies. But not until recently, with the advent of the "Twilight" book series, and release of the movie of the same name, has the love for vampires blown up into something so big. You can find vampire stuff virtually every where, It's on shirts, bags, notebooks, jackets, T.V., in the movies, etc.

I, however, dislike "Twilight," but I do like the idea of vampires. Because of this, I went in search of a vampire story that I would enjoy reading, but also in some small way could connect to the characters.

In my search for a good vampire story I came across a book series called A House Of Night Novel. The series consists of 6 books. The newest book goes on sale October 27, 2009. This series of books is written by P.C Cast and her daughter Kristin Cast, both of whom are award winning writers.

The first book of the series is called Marked, and I just recently finished reading it. The story takes place in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is about a girl named Zoey Redbird. Zoey gets marked by a vampire tracker and that starts the beginning of Zoey's new life. Since Zoey has been marked she will soon begin her long change into a vampire. Because of this Zoey has to leave her friends, family, boyfriend, and the world she once knew behind to move to the House Of Night, which is a refuge for vampires who go there during their change from fledglings to adult vampires. When Zoey gets to her new school she quickly makes friends, as well as an enemy.

Throughout the story Zoey discovers that she is not an ordinary fledgling but that Nyx, the vampire goddess, has marked her differently and has given her a special gift.

I recommend this book to everyone who likes vampire stores.

## Long Road to Success

By Noel Rivera

My name is Noel Rivera, I am eighteen years old and I'm from Honduras. I was born on September 15, 1991 in a city called Olancho, Honduras.

When I was five years old, I went into a law office with my father, and then I started to ask a lot of questions of my father about a lawyer's job, life and money. That's when I realized that I wanted to become a lawyer in the future. I was six years old when I started school, and I started to think that becoming a better person in life is harder than I thought.

After one year of being in school, my father decided to move to another country. In 1998, we moved to El Salvador and I was surprised, because I met new people with a different way of living their lives. In El Salvador everything was different for me, because the school that I had to go to, was near the house in which I was living. I was happy, because my father's family was living there, and I met my cousins, my aunts and my grandmother. In that moment I said that moving to El Salvador was the best thing that could happen in my life.

When I started school, I made new friends, and I started new relationships with them. That helped me a lot, because they told me everything about that country and how people live. During the time that I was in school, I learned a lot of things that were new for me, and it was very interesting because I never thought to move from my country to a different place where ever single thing is different.

When we had lived in El Salvador about a year and a half, my father decided to emigrate to the United States. He told my mother that he wanted to come to this country, because "in this country people make much more money than in our countries," and it was going to be helpful for us. Finally my mother agreed with my father and so he emigrated to the United States.

When my father left home, everything was difficult for us, because we didn't have him home, but I still had to

go to school, and so I did. All the time that we had to be living without my father was a very hard time for us because we missed him a lot. My mother had to work, and I and my brothers had to go to school.

After a month and a half my father called us to tell us that he had arrived. When my father called us we were so happy because we knew that we were going to start a new life.

After five years in America, my father took a vacation to see us in El Salvador. When my father arrived, I was in seventh grade. We were so happy to have him back home, and he was also happy because he met his fifth son (who was born after he emigrated) for the first time.

He stayed with us about seven months. After that period of time my father and mother decided to emigrate to the United States. When they told us that, we were so upset because we had to stay without them for a while. They told us that we had to stay with my uncle, and because there was no other option, we agreed.

When they finally left home, the first week we were so sad. We missed them a lot, but I and my younger brothers had to go to school because my older brother dropped out. After twenty days, my father called us to say that they had arrived. We were so happy even though they were not with us.

After one year my older brother decided to come to the United States, and my mom and dad decided to help him. When he first arrived here, my father asked me if I wanted to come to this country, but I refused because I wanted to finish school there in El Salvador.

After two years I decided to come here to the United States, and I was happy because after a long time I was finally with them.

Now we are all together, and I really thank my father, because of his help I am becoming a better person and I still think that I will be a successful person in life because that's what I want to be.

## Success Students "Learn to Work"

By Monica Martinez

The Learn to Work Expo, held on Sept 30th, was a great success, with approximately 250 ninth graders in attendance. Students learned about the various clubs, pathways, colleges, and career opportunities available to them. They received really good information that they need for their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year so they can choose the pathway and academy that they really want.

The students who attended the Learn to Work Expo took passports and sought to accumulate 9 stamps from the pathways, 7 from the colleges, 7 from the businesses, 4 from the classroom demonstrations, and 2 from the other demos. A minimum of 29 stamps was required to attend the 92Q party. More than 80 students got to go to the party. Many more qualified to attend the party but had no transportation to the event.

There were many different types of businesses, and colleges. Represented, including First Mariner Bank, Federal Reserve Bank, Baltimore Mobile Crime Lab, Susquehanna Bank, Morris and Richie associates, and many others.

The colleges represented were Pennsylvania school of

Technology, UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County), MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art), Towson University, Navy ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) and Community Law and Action.

The presenters had a great time and talked to many students. Susquehanna Bank talked to 62 students, so they were very successful at getting their message out.

The students had a great time too, and were excited to see the variety of businesses and colleges. They also appreciated that the representatives from these organizations came out and talked to them about potential jobs and careers.

The Learn to Work Expo was a great success. The ninth graders got a better idea of what is available to them, and what pathways they have to choose from next year. Throughout the year, ninth graders will have other activities similar to the Learn to Work Expo to further help them narrow down their interests and options. Staff who were involved in the Learn to Work Expo said they would like to do it again next year and make it even better for next year's ninth graders.

## Leapin' Lizards!

By Angela Gray

On September 24, 2009, Ms. Breining's world geography class used live animals for a hands-on lesson in their ecosystems project.

Students had to build a model of an ecosystem using real wildlife. They were allowed to bring in their own animals. Erin Gibbs, Jarvis Bagan, Angela Cook, and Kayla Wagner brought pet lizards. Also, there were fish brought in by Holly Chiquian and Corey Hughes, and Erica Gabriel and Latonya Spencer.

The lizards were kept in the back of the classroom, while fish were kept in the front. Animals survived in the ecosystems made by the students. And the students were re-

sponsible for caring for their animals.

But every good thing must come to an end. Someone stole a lizard from one of the hand-made ecosystems. Ms. Breining reported the last time she had seen the lizard was September 24<sup>th</sup>, during first period.

The ecosystem project was planned to last from September 24<sup>th</sup> to Thanksgiving break, but due to the theft of the lizard, animals were sent home and the project was cut short.

"The project in general went well, and the students in my world geography class really enjoyed it," Ms. Breining stated, reflecting on that lesson.

