

FALL 2021, ISSUE 1

TechLife

Your Award Winning News Publication



Ready. Set. Go!

New schoolwide theme sets the tone for new school year.

On a warm and sunny September day, our PCTVS students, teachers, and staff returned to a full campus and the energy all around was pulsating and electric! Filled with eagerness and smiles, Bulldog Nation rolled off their busses and out of their cars, ready for a new and exciting school year.

There were brand new students, teachers, and staff, nervous with excitement and anticipation, many having never experienced a day in the life of PCTVS before. We saw veteran teachers and staff back in action talking to colleagues and prepping for classes. Security and administrative personnel were methodically directing all the traffic through campus, keeping the drop-off process as smooth as could be. The pledge of allegiance and national anthem were played before the morning announcements, continuing our strong patriotic culture throughout the hallways and classrooms. The morning announcements were music to our collective ears...the first full day back at PCTVS began!

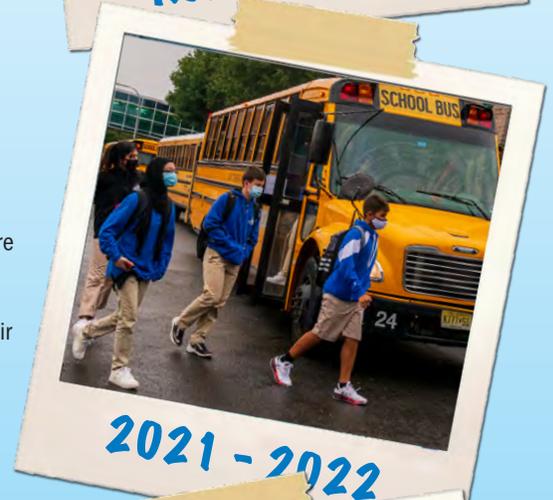
With an enrollment of over 4480 students at both PCTI and DCL STEM Academy, a sense of normalcy was beginning to permeate throughout the campus: the ring of the bell schedule, the shuffle of feet through the halls, administration, teachers, and staff welcoming and directing students to their classes, and the Tech department on hand working their magic ensuring numerous Chromebooks were ready and prepared for learning.

It was a great Opening Day and a great start to the new school year! As our Bulldog Family made their way back into the hallways, labs, classrooms, and athletic fields, it was truly inspiring to see all the staff and students abuzz with excitement!

The 2021-2022 school year will surely be like no other and the Bulldogs of PCTVS are Ready, Set, and on the Go!



Ready. Set. Go!



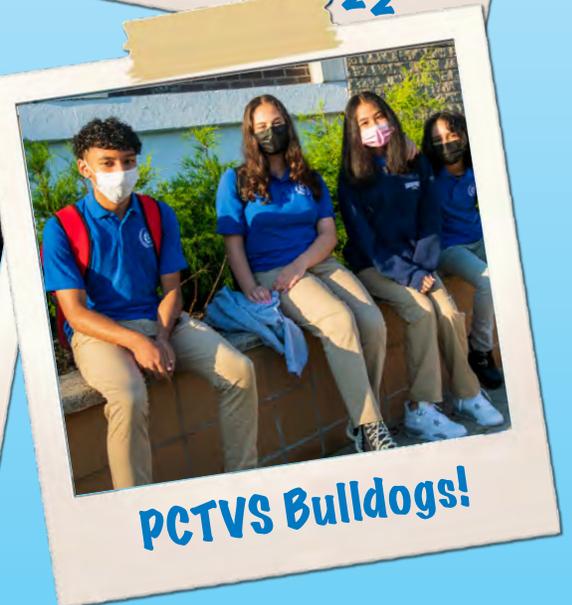
2021 - 2022



Opening Day!



Bulldog Family!



PCTVS Bulldogs!

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

The 2021-2022 school began with PCTVS welcoming 41 new teachers and 8 new support staff to the Bulldog Family. With our ever-growing campus and student body, we are always looking for innovative, motivated teachers and staff to become part of the fabric of our schools diverse identity. In August, our new teachers came together for an orientation filled with exploration and discovery, to support transition to their new careers here at PCTVS. We extend our most sincere welcome and heartfelt wishes for their continued success!

PCTI



STEM



CAMPUS TOURS

PCTVS is once again excited to have welcomed prospective students to our 2021 Campus Tours led by our dedicated Student Ambassadors. This event is always a great way for the community to come and experience our sprawling 55-acre campus and get a glimpse of our numerous career and academic offerings. There is nothing quite like seeing all the awed reactions to our beautiful school and is a constant reminder of just how extraordinary PCTVS truly is.



BULLDOG HEROICS



PCTVS presented STEM Principal Joaquim Johnson and nurse Joy Segreto with a plaque of commendation for coming to the aid of a STEM student.

STEM ACADEMY SUCCESS!

PCTVS STEM STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNOR'S STEM SCHOLARS HONOR

The 2021-22 class of Governor's STEM Scholars has been revealed and two students from the DCL STEM Academy have been selected as two of the three awardees from Passaic County! Seniors Nona Filmore Harris of Computer Science and Cameron Farid of Engineering are the proud recipients of the prestigious honor!

The Governor's STEM Scholars is made up of 100 high school and college STEM students from across the Garden State. Selected from more than 600 applicants, Scholars had to have at least a 3.5 GPA, be high school sophomores through doctoral-level at a New Jersey-based high school or university and demonstrate a passion for STEM.

The "Scholars" is a public-private partnership between the New Jersey Governor's Office, the state Department of Education, the state Secretary of Higher Education, the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, and public and private research institutions based in New Jersey.

We are extremely proud and offer a heartfelt congratulations to these two outstanding DCL STEM Seniors!

Way to go Nona and Cameron!



Nona Filmore Harris



Cameron Farid

STEAM E.CO₂

DCL STEM Academy Students WIN Big in Prestigious Challenge!

The STEM STEAM Team, aptly named "E.CO₂" recently participated in this year's annual statewide STEAM Tank challenge and received glowing accolades for their innovative original concept! The team, consisting of DCL STEM Academy seniors Duaa Raza, Raneem Ahmad, Kyra Macvaugh, Victoria Mistretta, and Andrea Vizcarra recently presented their innovative project to a panel of expert judges. The result.... a huge WIN for our incredible students!

With over 240 teams entered in the highly competitive statewide competition, our students garnered a well-deserved second place finish for their ingenious idea which is using a bacterium to breakdown unrecyclable plastic that usually ends up in the landfills. Our team worked hard on an original idea that addressed this real-world problem. The goal of the competition was to invent something unique, modify and adapt an existing creation, or identify a real-life problem or condition that needs attention. This year's virtual competition challenged students to use the digital environment in their creativity and our team was up to the task!

The STEAM Tank Challenge, which was created by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) and is sponsored by the U.S. Army, encourages students to apply science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in response to critical issues facing the world today. It lets students contribute to making the country sustainable, healthy, equitable, and safe.

We are so very proud of our STEAM Team E.CO₂ and advisor Dr. Crystal Ponticello - we commend them on their outstanding hard work and dedication in setting a standard of excellence for those who follow!



MARCHING BAND GRABS GOLD!

The PCTVS Marching Band once again had an impressive performance and earned a Gold Rating at this year's NJMEA Marching Band Ratings Festival at Wayne Hills High School on Saturday, October 23. The band scored an extraordinary 89.5 while the brass section earned the award for Outstanding Musical Contribution and percussion earned the award for Outstanding Visual Contribution.

Overall, this is the band's 3rd straight gold rating at this event, adding to our 2018 and 2019 accomplishments. The 2021 production was entitled *Inside the Velvet Ropes* and featured the arrangements "Conga," "Fever," and "Saturday Night's Alright."

The band is under the direction of Nelson Mendez; Assistant Director Patrick Bennett; Color Guard Advisors Melissa Andriac & Stacie Bennett; Instructors Alfredo Alejandro Gumbs, Angelo Oliver & Leon Pooran; Drum Major Jesse Bross; Color Guard Captain Madison Singh; Drum Captain Andres Guerra; Section Leaders Benjamin Suttora, Sahaf Chowdhury, Shayla Montero, and Laila Ramirez.

GO BULLDOGS!



SPIRIT DAY!

The drums! The horns! The students! The cheers!
Did we mention the DRUMS?!

On Friday, September 24th, the lobby of the main entrance of PCTI was once again filled with all the sights and sounds of what a PCTVS Spirit Day should be, and for the first time in almost two years, Spirit Day was back! Now, we're not talking about a watered-down, circumstantial version of Spirit Day with just Tech Wear and jeans. No! We are talking about the whole package - full marching band, lively cheerleaders, vigilant color guard, captivated students onlookers, and teachers and administrators admiring it all.

Once the first period bell rang the marching band, cheerleaders, and color guard took a short break to gather themselves for the main event - the spirited and musical march through the halls of both PCTI and DCL STEM Academy. The feeling was electric as students heard the drums off in the distance heading their way and stopped for good views in the halls and through the doorways. The booming sound of the drums reverberated through the halls, and everyone cheered and waved and clapped their hands.

As the band marched by the gathered classrooms, we could tell that so many of the students and staff had huge smiles under their masks - nothing was going to stop the Bulldog Nation from enjoying this special day. For many of us, 2021's first full Spirit Day was one giant step closer to a return to normalcy (while we followed strict safety protocols wearing masks and being careful and courteous to their classmates and colleagues). It felt truly rewarding to assemble again, as one big Bulldog Family, in that familiar place we call home!



PCTVS WILL NEVER FORGET!

It has been twenty years since the horrific terror attacks on September 11th, 2001, and although time passes and wounds begin to heal, recollections of that day are forever burned into our collective memories. As an academic institution, PCTVS believes that having a memorial service each year is an important part of not only teaching and remembering what happened, but also paying tribute to the heroic first responders who luckily survived that day, as well as those who tragically lost their lives.

In observance of 9/11, the PCTVS 9/11 Ceremony welcomed special guest speaker Retired FBI Special Agent Mr. Diego Redondo who gave a riveting and impassioned presentation about his experience on that fateful day. The ceremony also included a video titled “Why We Should Remember September 11th” starring PCTVS Boys and Girls State students Jasmyn Torres, Andima Deb, Jesse Bross, and Sahaf Chowdhury. The incredibly moving video also featured interviews with Passaic County first responders and firefighters Tom Fahy and Joe Allegro commenting on their experience on 9/11.

PCTVS will never forget and eternally honor the memories of all the brave men and women who were courageous and put their own lives in danger for the sake of others. We will always honor those who survived, and especially those we lost on September 11th, 2001.



VETERANS DAY

The Passaic County Technical and Vocational Schools (PCTVS) proudly continued its commitment to honor and celebrate patriotism with a moving Veterans Day assembly in November.

Ms. Cathy Pagano, PCTVS patriotic coordinator, began the ceremony with a sincere welcome followed by the Flag Salute led by Gabriella Urrego, and our National Anthem performed by the PCTVS Vocal Ensemble student, Deziny Narvaez. A moving video “Honoring Our Veterans” followed and a power point presentation “Veterans In History,” both involving Boys and Girls State students, were shown to a captivated audience.

Guest Speaker, Deputy Mayor of Passaic/ VFW Department Commander Minnie Hiller Cousins gave a high-spirited address to the audience about why remembering veterans and their sacrifices are so important. Then we heard “From the Eyes of a Veteran” by Tony Vancheri, Paterson Veterans Council President, who presented the school with a new American Flag and further enlightened the audience about what veterans mean to this country.

Following the guest speakers, there was the “Presentation of the Wreath” by students Sahaf Chowdhury, Jasmyn Torres, Fahil Hussain, which was later placed on the campus Veterans Park, as well as a somber yet fitting rendition of “Taps” played by PCTVS Band members Shayla Montero and Michael Diaz. Perhaps the most poignant part of the ceremony was the heartfelt “Flag Passing” by our own NJROTC students as ROTC Chief Santiago beautifully read the poem, “I am Old Glory.”

A reception for the Veterans followed and was hosted by the PCTVS National Honor Society and Boys & Girls State Students.

PCTVS “MAKING HISTORY” AS IT LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CONVOY

PCTVS will be hosting the special “Wreaths Across American Convoy Escort” on December 14th, at 5:30 pm. The Convoy is carrying over 55,000 of wreaths for Veteran’s gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery, in preparation for Wreaths Across America Day on December 18th. This is the first time the Convoy has ever stopped in Northern New Jersey and PCTVS is honored to be chosen for this special visitation.

The Wreaths across America Mobile Educational trailer will also be at the school campus during that time for students, staff, and community members to provide more awareness of this worthy initiative.

For the past three years, PCTVS has participated in the Wreaths Across America’s mission to “Remember, Honor, Teach” by becoming a local fundraising group in partnership with Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa. The goal is to raise enough funds to place a holiday wreath on the grave of the 3900 deceased veterans interred at Holy Sepulchre. This national program, recognized across the United States, is meant to enrich not only our students, but all community members and visitors about the services and sacrifices of our nation’s military for our freedom.

Because of its strong patriotic culture through the years, PCTVS is thrilled to participate in this most honorable initiative!



Hispanic Heritage

Every year from September 15 to October 15, Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools, along with the rest of the country, celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the community’s history, heritage, and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America.

The month-long celebration culminates with the highly energetic and lively PCTVS Hispanic Heritage Assembly Program featuring numerous cultural dances, songs, music, and theatrical skits all presented by our talented students, many of whom are members of the School of Performing Arts. The day’s events, sponsored by the PCTVS Hispanic Heritage Committee, are presented during five separate assemblies. There was also a scheduled evening performance for family and friends!

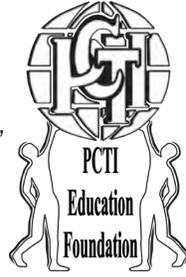
PCTVS has always celebrated Hispanic Heritage in a very big way with a production written, choreographed, and performed by our students and staff. The show opened with the Performing Arts Dancers dancing down the aisles of the school’s auditorum, accompanied by the music of PCTVS’s award winning Ensemble Band. The opening number was an extremely energetic prelude to the rest of the show, which was highly entertaining and very well performed.

The annual PCTVS celebration of Hispanic Heritage is largely accredited to the instructors and students who generously donated their time in coordinating the event. Thank you to all those who contributed to this enlightening performance!



GOLF SCHOLARSHIP CLASSIC

The prestigious North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ was the picture-perfect backdrop for the PCTI Education Foundation's 24th annual Golf Scholarship Classic on Monday, October 4th. More than 100 golfers, sponsors, and dinner guests attended the event which included a fun-filled day of golf, dinner, prizes and more! This event not only helped raise awareness of the academic excellence and achievements of Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools, but also raised funds for much needed student scholarships and teacher mini grants for classroom and instructional enhancement.



Since the inception of the Golf Scholarship Classic, the PCTVS Education Foundation has raised over \$1,500,000 and doesn't plan on stopping there. This event would not be possible without the generous support of alumni, local businesses, and friends of PCTVS.

Guests were invited to not only play the course, but to enjoy dinner, cocktails, and other exciting activities such as a putting contest and longest drive contest. All proceeds were donated to support the educational endeavors of students and teachers at PCTVS.



President of PCTI's Education Foundation, Al Alexander, praised all those who were involved in making the event an overwhelming success. "The fantastic turnout will allow us to greatly contribute to furthering education for our hardworking students. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and efforts, and to those who generously supported our endeavors!"

HAILEY MIA, PCTI FRESHMAN VOCAL TECHNIQUE STUDENT STARS ON NBC'S THE VOICE

14-year-old PCTI Freshman Performing Arts/Vocal Technique student Hailey Mia had the amazing opportunity to put her tremendous talent to the test when she competed in NBC's The Voice Blind Audition episode, which aired Monday, September 27th. She earned the chance to sing and possibly be selected by music industry powerhouses Kelly Clarkson, John Legend, Blake Shelton, or Ariana Grande for a chance to be coached throughout the season.

The superstars were astounded when Hailey Mia revealed, "I've been waiting 'till I turned 13 to be on this show. And I'm so, so honored to be here."

Hailey's moment of truth came shortly after she chose Ariana Grande and secured her spot on #TeamAriana and solidified her chances to become Season 21 Winner of NBC's The Voice. After several weeks of incredible singing and competing against other extraordinary hopefuls, an unexpected twist occurred when Hailey Mia sang in a head-to-head competition and Kelly Clarkson stole her away from Ariana Grande – so now it's "Go #teamkelly!"

The PCTVS Bulldog Family extends our sincerest congratulations to Hailey Mia and looks forward to cheering her on throughout her incredible journey on NBC's The Voice.

We are so very proud!! Go Hailey Mia!



PCTVS SENIORS ANNOUNCED AS NATIONAL QUESTBRIDGE FINALISTS

Four seniors from PCTVS have been named QuestBridge National Scholar Finalists! PCTI student Abdullah Abdallah, and STEM Academy students John Linarez Cerezo, Yenifer Panana and Farhan Sufian were among the 6,312 students selected as National College Match Finalists out of an astounding 16,500 applicants. Finalists exhibited outstanding academic achievement with an average GPA of 3.91 or above, a class rank in the top 5-10%, and scored above 1260 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT.

QuestBridge has forty college partners from which to choose, including Ivy League schools. Students that ultimately match with a college or university will receive a full four-year scholarship.

Congratulations to our PCTVS students for making it through the first round of QuestBridge Finalists to be considered for scholarships!



CTE SPOTLIGHT!

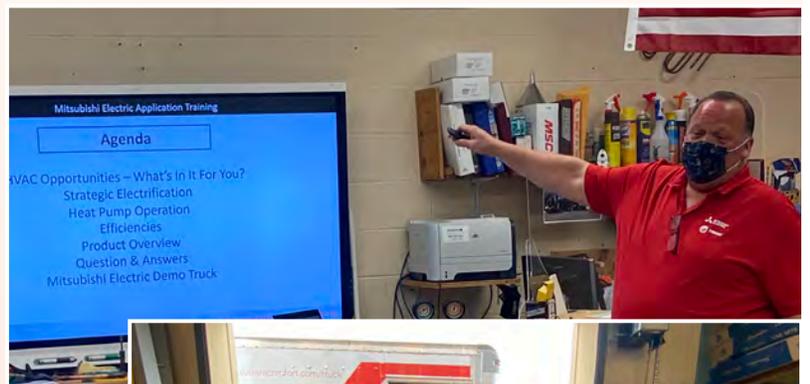
KEEPING PACE WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY!

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Former PCTI Class of 1981 graduate Tim Rabel, Area Sales Manager at Mitsubishi Electric Cooling and Heating, came back to his roots and presented our School of Construction Technology/ HVAC students with the latest in highly innovative and environmentally friendly equipment developed by Mitsubishi.

Tim arrived in a 14 foot, built-out box truck equipped with state-of-the-art heating and cooling equipment which allowed the students to observe the inner and outer workings of what Mitsubishi has been perfecting for years. The truck had the most up-to-date technology for both home heating and cooling. Students toured the truck and listened to Tim's informative presentation about opportunities and careers in the field of Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling.

What a great experience for our students and a big welcome back to Tim!



Congratulations!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER

Sahaf Chowdhury



PCTI

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION ARTS
GRAPHIC DESIGN &
3D ANIMATION

OCTOBER

Alexandra Drzewosz



STEM ACADEMY

COMPUTER SCIENCE

OCTOBER

Ahmed Chowdhury

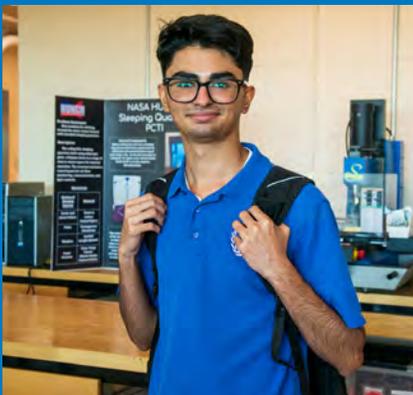


PCTI

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMPUTER SCIENCE

NOVEMBER

Dishant Alay Gandhi



PCTI

SCHOOL OF APPLIED ENGINEERING

NOVEMBER

Duaa Raza



STEM

BIOMEDICAL & LIFE SCIENCES

NOVEMBER

Roselyn Martinez



PCTI

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION &
HUMAN SERVICES

PCTVS ALUMNA AND KEAN ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT WINS NFL SCHOLARSHIP

Former Bulldog Tianna Marquez, from Paterson, a Kean University athletic training student doing her clinical rotation with the New York Jets has received a scholarship designed to encourage female and minority students to pursue a National Football League career.

“Being able to do my clinical rotation with a professional NFL team is a dream come true,” Marquez said, adding, “I was surprised and honored when the Jets’ head trainer presented me with the scholarship.”

Kean Athletic Training Program Director Ray DiVirgilio said, “It’s a great experience for students because not many students can say they got to work with a professional team as an undergraduate.”

Marquez, who graduates in the spring, plans to seek a graduate assistant position and pursue her master’s degree. She said she hopes to become an NFL athletic trainer in the future.

Photo credit: Kean University / NY Jets



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER



Emma Letizia
Girls Soccer



Josh Virgil
Boys Soccer

NOVEMBER



Brandon Parra
Football



Victoria Mistretta
Girls Volleyball



Troy Milton
Football

PCTVS ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

BULLDOGS FOOTBALL ROLLS TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES!



Led by Seniors Brandon Parra and Troy Milton, the Bulldogs will battle in another state championship title game against East Orange.



PCTVS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SHOWS GRIT!



Senior Lady Bulldogs D'Mary De Leon, Hailey Carlino, Victoria Mistretta, Kate Juskiewicz, and Abigail Spence heroically led the Girls Volleyball team to some impressive victories in the Big North - Liberty Conference.



BOYS SOCCER SHOWS HARDWORK AND RESILIENCE!

The PCTVS Boys Soccer team won some big games this year with help from Seniors Josh Virgil, Kevin Martinez, and Osvaldo Romero.



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*May you enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving,
a joyous holiday season
and healthful, Happy New Year!*