

## **Peekskill City School District**

Press Release

January 30, 2012

### **Peekskill High School Students Help Third Graders Boost Skills**

PEEKSKILL...The Peekskill High School Interact Club has long been dedicated to matching student volunteers with community needs, whether serving meals to the homeless or making crafts projects with seniors at Drum Hill. Recently, Interact students have started helping to meet another need, right in the Peekskill school system.

“Third grade is when students have to meet the challenge of state tests,” explains ESL teacher Steve DiAngelo. “Many of our third graders and their families were asking for extra help with reading and test preparation, and so I reached out to the high school.” Interact Club advisor, PHS teacher Allison Risoli, was happy to work with DiAngelo to organize the project.

Every Monday afternoon, around nine or ten high school students walk to the Oakside Elementary School and settle down to read and do math problems with third graders. Despite the fact that both groups of students have already put in a long school day, all are happy to get to work. “I like it when the helpers come,” says Oscar Guerra. “They are nice and explain things.” Eleventh grader Lailaa Cunningham reflects, “This is a way to help that is very meaningful, and we know it will make a difference.”

For further information, contact:

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Shown in photo#1: ESL teacher Steve DiAngelo with students Lynette Quiles, Katherine Marmol, and third grader Dasani Williams.

