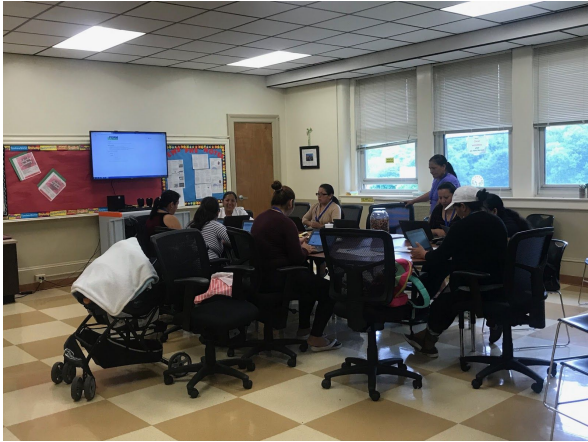


## Superintendent's Communication Brief: June 10-15, 2019

In last week's Superintendent's Communication Brief, we highlighted a group of Peekskill parents as they were honored for completing the EmpowerU program at our Parent Center. We are excited to announce that our next round of EmpowerU courses have begun! This course teaches financial literacy, healthy relationship tips and useful parenting techniques. Please contact PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores if you would like to enroll in the classes: [molivierflores@peekskillschools.org](mailto:molivierflores@peekskillschools.org)



This week, Dr. Mauricio was invited to be a guest on a podcast hosted by Mr. Jeff Cobelli of Good for You Productions. On the show, Dr. Mauricio discussed his first year as Superintendent of Schools, District programs and plans for our District moving forward. You can watch the video interview on Mr. Cobelli's YouTube channel [here](#).



Our Peekskill Science Research (PSR) students continue to have a successful year! On June 1, several PSR students participated in the Somers Science Fair at Somers High School. Students worked tirelessly to create posters that culminated their year-long research projects. We

congratulate all who participated and send a special shout out to the following students who placed in the fair:

Madeline Elam - "The Effects of Graphene Oxide on PCDPF-Fe in a PEM Fuel Cell."

Kennedy Johnson - "Effects of Cosmetic Surgery on Psychological Variables."

Luisa Urgiles - "The Effects of Climate Change on Brook Trout (*Salvelinus Fontinalis*) Population."

Thank you to the teachers, parents and fellow PHS peers who supported our PSR students, as well as those who volunteered at the fair. Also, special thanks to Ms. Erum Hadi for her leadership of the PSR program.



Peekskill High School senior Jakyme Brewington-Smith was interviewed by the film crew of Peekskill's Enormous Creative Agency, who are continuing their work on a video that speaks to the revitalization of Peekskill and includes many voices from throughout the community. Miss Brewington spoke about her role in proposing more local jobs for Peekskill youth as part of the recent Community Congress forums. This interview will accompany others as the community comes together to help the city apply for New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. If selected to receive the grant, the city will be awarded \$10 million to develop a downtown strategic investment plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization.

In other news, Jakyme Brewington-Smith has also been awarded a \$1,000 Lower Hudson Chapter of New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) scholarship this year. This scholarship is awarded to a family member of a transportation professional.



Our Oakside students recently gave a spectacular performance at the school's spring concert! Thank you to Oakside Music Teacher Ms. Cynthia Reynolds for preparing the children for the show. See more photos from the event [here](#).



We are so incredibly proud of our Peekskill Middle School young ladies who took part in the Girls on the Run 5K last weekend in Cornwall, NY! All of them completed the run within one hour! Throughout the year, the girls worked hard learning new healthy habits and holding weekly bake sales to raise money for transportation to the 5K. The girls' coaches this season were PKMS teachers: Ashley Aucar, Steven Gonzalez, Stacy Leitner and Megan Myones.



This week, President Michael Simpkins (also on the PNW BOCES Board of Education) and Dr. Mauricio attended the BOCES Tech Center graduation ceremony to join in the celebration as Peekskill High School seniors graduated from the program! The graduation hosted 450 students from 18 area school districts who graduated from more than 40 areas of study. Congratulations to the following students for earning degrees in the noted fields:

- Joshua Gonsalves (Auto Body)
- Damian Solano Tintin (Auto Body)
- Natasha Smith (Barbering)
- Myrka Chunchi (Certified Nurse/Home Health Aide)
- Cristian Dominguez Flores (Certified Nurse/Home Health Aide)
- Bertha Sinchi (Certified Nurse/Home Health Aide)
- Anna Zepeda (Certified Nurse/Home Health Aide)
- Angel Rodriguez (Construction Electricity)
- Magdalena Plaza Chiqui (Digital Film/Video & Audio Production)
- Michael Monge (Digital Media)
- Miguel Alarcon Martinez (ENL Auto Mechanics)
- Wellington J. Dumaguala (ENL Auto Mechanics)
- Santiago Lopez Martinez (ENL Auto Mechanics)
- Araely Perez Coronado (ENL Carpentry)
- Ricardo Ac (ENL Urban Forestry)
- Jennifer Mendez (Fashion Design and Merchandising)
- Riccardo Ramos Suarez (Law Enforcement)
- Jennifer Villa (Law Enforcement)
- Micheal Santucci (Microcomputer Technology)
- Jose Cardoza (Small Engine Repair)
- Joseph Cunningham (Sports Medicine)
- Jacques Vermandois (Urban Forestry/Aboriculture)
- Kaitlyn Quezada (Veterinary Science)

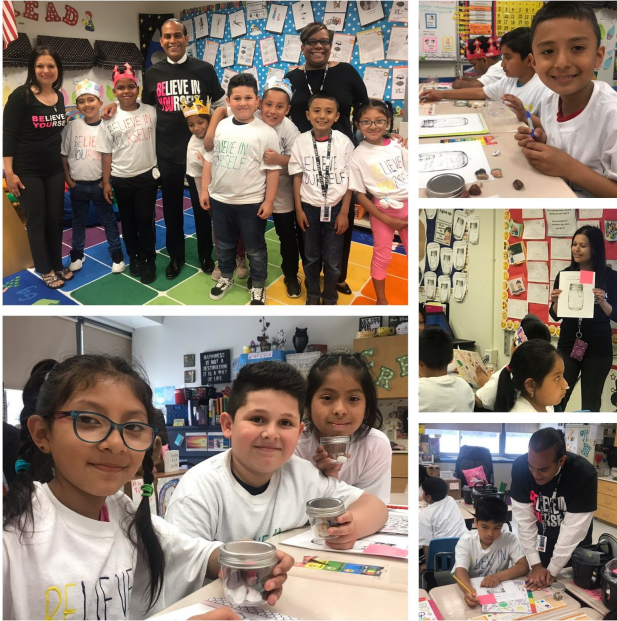




Congratulations to Peekskill High School Counselor Ms. Maria Gordineer and PHS Teacher/Interact Club and Honor Society Advisor Mr. George Goess, who were recently honored by the Rotary Club of Peekskill for their services to the students and families of our community. They were also made honorary members of the Peekskill Rotary Club.



This week, Dr. Mauricio visited Ms. Lynch's Grade 3 class at Oakside Elementary to help students with their "Five Big Rocks" project. Dr. Mauricio spoke to the students about the importance of identifying their goals and taking action steps to see their goals through.



This week, the Journal News interviewed Peekskill High School senior Kyle Moran about living in Peekskill and what makes Peekskill High School a great place to learn. Mr. Moran spoke about the strong student-teacher relationships, our thriving programs, and the support we receive from the community.



The Peekskill PTO held their final meeting of the school year this week. The evening included an overview of the year and officer elections. Two seats, President and Treasurer, were up for election. Marisa O'Leary and Randi Alberino were both re-elected for two-year terms. The

District looks forward to continuing this collaborative partnership as we prepare to head into the 2019-2020 school year.



Hillcrest Assistant Principal Mrs. Crystal Hernandez served as the keynote speaker at the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Great Achievers Awards ceremony last Saturday. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster attended the event as well. Mrs. Hernandez’s speech was centered around the fact that everyone has a divine “PLAN” for their life, and that in order for it to come to fruition, they should:

- P - Identify their PASSION
- L - LEARN as much as they can about their passion
- A - Find opportunities to ACT on their passion, and
- N - NEVER QUIT while pursuing their passion.

Congratulations to all of the awards recipients, especially Hillcrest Elementary's very own Lenita Esteves!





This week videographer Kyle Caldwell of Educational Legacy Planning came to gather footage for a promotional video that will be used to highlight the purpose of the District's proposed capital project. If passed, improvements would include a collaborative learning space for STEAM classes at Peekskill High School and Hillcrest Elementary, a new turf multi-purpose field and upgrades at each school. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project!



This week, Dr. Mauricio and Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke met with Girls, Inc. Executive Director Ms. Michelle Nicolas to discuss a possible partnership for the Global Girls Alliance initiative. This is part of our District's efforts to promote our female students and help them all achieve their highest level of success.



As an exciting follow up to [this story](#), the Peekskill City School District is proud to announce that PHS student Kimberlyn Lopez Herrera took home FIRST PLACE at the NFTE New York Metro Regional Youth Entrepreneur Challenge! Herrera's business, Eco-Aqua, was one of three selected from 3,000 participants who rivaled for a chance to attend the competition finals, which was held on June 13 at NYC's Chelsea Piers. Miss Herra was awarded \$1500 and is invited to attend the national section of the competition in October! Once again, we congratulate Miss Herra on her accomplishment and thank PHS teacher Mr. Ronald Johnson for his leadership.

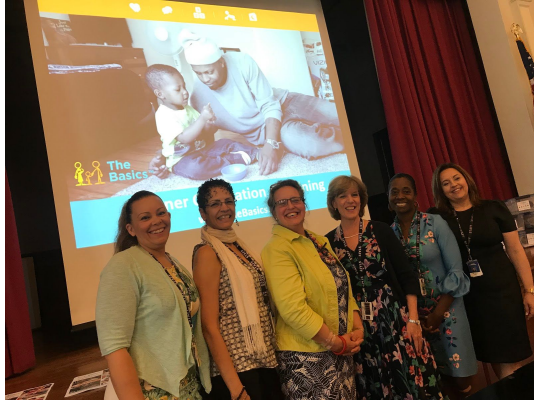




Uriah Hill students enjoyed “Fun in the Sun” day this week! This annual school tradition featured water games, relay races and more. Our students had an incredible time! Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event and run the exciting stations.



Thank you to everyone who attended this week’s Peekskill Basics meeting at our Administration Building. Our team was happy to engage in these important conversations with our community members and partners. If you would like to learn more about the Peekskill Basics, [click here](#).



Peekskill High School senior Miss Kathryn Czerwinski was one of seven students to receive the Justin Veatch Award, an honor given to talented musicians in the surrounding area. She received an engraved metronome, a citation from Senator Harckham and \$1,000! Miss Czerwinski is an outstanding young lady who has served as a role model to her peers. She is an active member of the PHS a capella group, "The City Singers" and Co-President of the PHS Drama Club.



Congratulations to our Grade 5 D.A.R.E graduates at Hillcrest Elementary! Special thanks to our partners at the Peekskill Police Department for preparing our students to make positive, informed choices as young adults.



Today our District marched with the Peekskill PTO at the City's Juneteenth Parade! Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, is an American holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. state of Texas, and more generally the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America. Thank you to everyone who joined us in the celebration and came out to represent the Peekskill City School District!



Join us for our last Board of Education meeting of the school year on Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building auditorium. We will be presenting highlights from our school year, celebrating our students and more!



Enjoy your weekend, and we wish all father figures a very happy Father's Day!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools