

Superintendent's Communication Brief: January 14-18, 2019

Congratulations to Peekskill Middle School and High School for transforming their schools to Good Standing by the State Education Department. Join us at our Board of Education meeting this Tuesday at 7 p.m. as we recognize them as this week's #PeekskillPride.

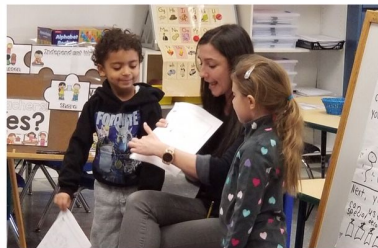
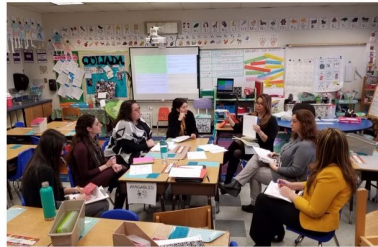
The Board of Education trustees and Superintendent Mauricio attended the Peekskill High School 3rd Annual FTC Robotics Tournament on Saturday, January 12 and the day was a great success as Districts came from all around the region! We thank all of those who volunteered, participated or came out to watch this exciting event. Special thanks to PCSD Technology Manager Janice Reid, PHS Robotics teacher Mr. Vidrini, PHS Principal Mr. Arthur, the event's Planning Committee, Peekskill High School Science Teacher Michelle Obenauer, PCSD Director of Facilities Mr. Carmine Crisci, Director of Security Mr. David Santiago, and to our PHS Robotics Teams, the Iron Devils and Mechanical Devils, who all put in countless hours to make the day happen.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Foster and Mr. Callahan met with Lakeland Central School District representatives this week, including George Washington Elementary School Principal Mr. Tracy Norman and one of the school's social workers. The Lakeland administrators heard about our work and came to learn more about the My Brother's Keeper program, the Peekskill Basics initiative and our Saturday Academy.



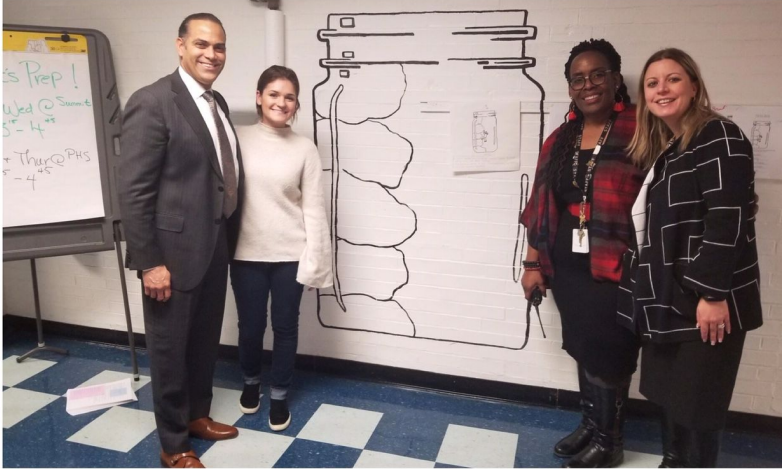
As part of his regularly scheduled weekly School Support visits, Dr. Mauricio visited Principal Aviles-Rodriguez at Woodside Elementary. While at the school, Dr. Mauricio engaged in an inter-school visit where Director Mrs. Vargas and teachers from Uriah Hill and Woodside visited Ms. McKinley's class. The lesson was a great example of the planning, skill and care that our teachers put forth every day to educate our children. Ms. McKinley is full of energy, passion and has built a culture where students present their work to each other. Later, the team debriefed to share the highlights of the lesson. This was a great school-to-school collaboration!



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan, Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur and PHS Assistant Principal Mr. William Toro also visited Saunders High School in Yonkers this week to gather information as Peekskill prepares to write for the Pathways to Technology (P-Tech) grant. Great ideas were shared at the meeting.



Dr. Mauricio also visited the Summit Academy and was joined by Assistant Superintendent Callahan, Director of Special Services Mrs. Gerace and Summit's Assistant Principal Dr. Daniels. While there, they walked the building with Summit administration and faculty, including Art teacher Taylor Coleman who, along with Summit students, is designing a student's "Five Big Rocks" mural inspired by Superintendent Mauricio's leadership. The students' rocks focus on the importance of family, education, friends and other key areas of their lives. While at Summit, the team also visited the remodeled Parent Resource Center. **We invite everyone to join us for the Grand Re-Opening of the Parent Resource Center at Uriah Hill on February 7 at 7 p.m. during the monthly PTO General Membership meeting.**



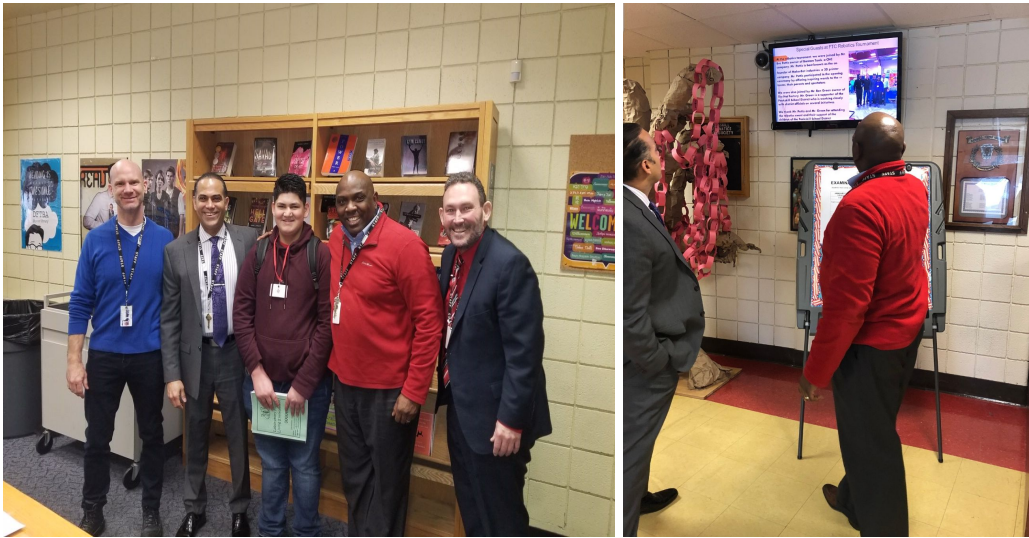
Dr. Mauricio visited the after-school My Brother's Keeper monthly mentoring sessions held at Peekskill Middle School. It was great to see our mentors working with their students, reviewing their report cards, breaking bread together and connecting as peers. Mr. Lewis spoke to the students about the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy. Great work Mrs. Hayward and team!



Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Callahan met with local businessman Glenn Smith to discuss potential internship opportunities for our students in the field of digital media. Mr. Smith is proposing an apprenticeship program where local media businesses provide our students with real world experiences. He is also interested in signing on as a partner in our P-Tech grant application.



Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Callahan conducted a monthly visit of the high school with Mr. Arthur. While at the school, they observed a great school culture where students were highly engaged in their learning and transitions from class to class in an orderly manner. Mr. Arthur showed off the internal TV system where students create content to highlight the school's activities. The group visited the school's library to discuss a potential college and career student resource center.



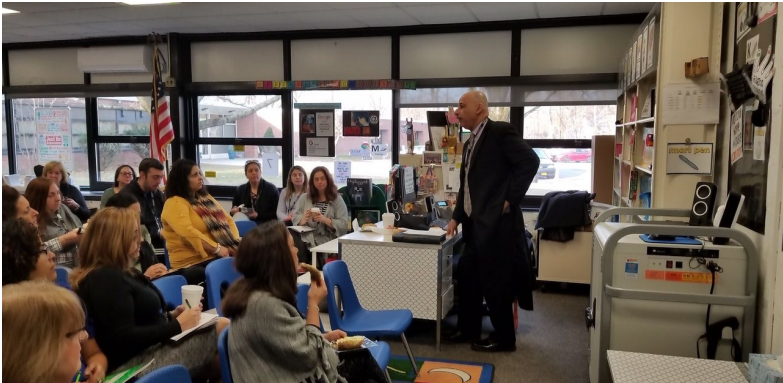
Dr. Mauricio joined Assistant Superintendent Callahan and Special Services Director Mrs. Gerace to meet with Peekskill Youth Bureau Executive director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald to discuss an exciting proposal that will be presented to the **Board of Education this Tuesday at 7 p.m. and simultaneously at the City's Common Council meeting.** Join us at our January 22 Board meeting to learn more about these collaboration efforts.



Dr. Mauricio joined local superintendents from Ossining, Yonkers and Newburg to learn about the My Brother's Keeper program in East Ramapo. At the meeting, East Ramapo's MBK students presented on their vision, mentoring program and goals for college. They are an excellent example of our students' potential.



PCSD Director of Security Mr. Santiago presented Woodside's new Blue Light system during the building's faculty conference this week. This state-of-the-art system allows schools to alert first responders and district leaders of their safety needs in times of an emergency. It is part of a multi-faceted safety and security system that was completed this fall to keep our students and staff safe.



Dr. Mauricio met with Mr. Sal Frega, PCSD parent and treasurer of the Peekskill Education Foundation, to discuss the District's priorities so that they can align their fundraising efforts for our students.



Along with many community members, Board of Education trustees and Dr. Mauricio attended the second Peekskill Community Congress meeting at the Peekskill Brewery. At the meeting, residents made three-minute proposals related to various topics to improve our great city. The Congress' organizers have asked to hold their final community proposal event at our February 9 Saturday Academy at the Middle School. Visit <https://www.peakskillcommunitycongress.com/> to learn more.



This week, the New York State Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (NYSALAS) held a Hudson Valley “Meet and Greet” event in Yonkers, and Peekskill was proud to have the following District leaders attend: Superintendent Mauricio, who is President-Elect and a co-founder of the organization, Early Childhood Director Mrs. Vargas, Woodside Principal Mrs. Aviles Rodriguez and PHS Assistant Principal Mr. William Toro.



As we prepare to head into spring’s science fair season, our junior and senior Peekskill Science Research (PSR) students at PHS are now working on their presentations. These presentations are based off their research papers that document their summer research projects. Students have worked throughout the fall to prepare their applications for these upcoming fairs and have applied to

participate in two science fairs: the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) at John Jay High School on February 9, and the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) at Sleepy Hollow High School on March 17. PHS is excited to report that their student participation at the WESEF Fair has almost tripled to 14, up from 5 participants last year! Read more about this year's participants and their projects [here](#).

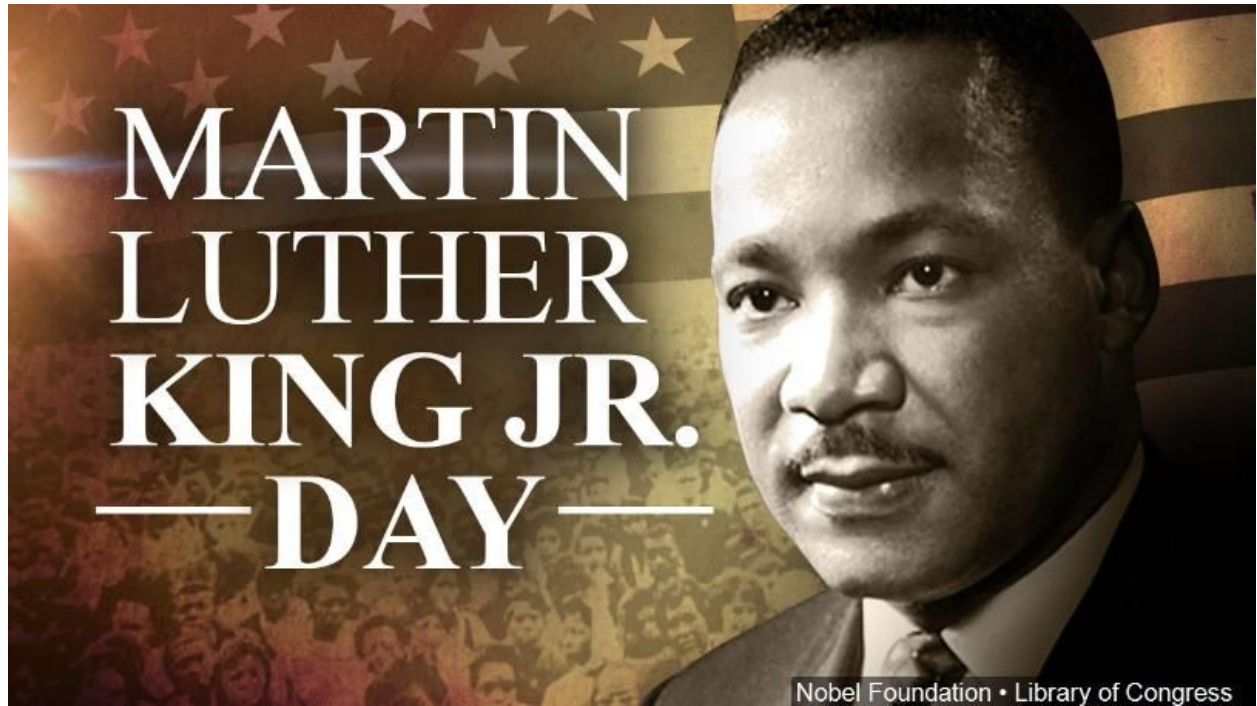


As part of Hudson Valley MOCA's Teaching Artist in Residence program, children's book illustrator and author Charles Esperanza is working with Woodside Elementary art students throughout the month of January. Using his book "Red, Yellow, Blue (and a Dash of White, Too!)" as a starting point, Esperanza teaches the science of color mixing, as well as the importance of artistic experimentation. Students are all taught how to mix primary colors using paint to create their own character illustrated in vivid secondary colors.



Enjoy your weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools



“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.