

## Superintendent's Communication Brief: March 11-15, 2019

Last Saturday was an exciting one in the City of Peekskill! The day began with hundreds of guests coming out to enjoy our Saturday Academy at Peekskill Middle School. After that, members of our school community joined together to represent the Peekskill City School District at the City's annual St. Patrick's Day parade! Thank you to everyone who joined us for each of these fun events, and again, happy birthday, Dr. Mary Keenan Foster!



On Sunday, Dr. Mauricio and Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores attended the "Voces Latinas de Westchester y Fundación de Pichincha" hosted by the Peekskill Hispanic Community Corp. At the event, they gave greetings to parents and members of the public. The program focused on honoring women. There were musicians, speakers and great food. Ms. Dinorah Santos was a lead organizer of the event and is an ardent supporter of our schools.



Dr. Mauricio was invited by Martin McDonald to be a special guest speaker and address the My

Brother's Keeper (MBK) member's of the NAACP's Black Diamond youth group at the Field Library. The Black Diamonds meet every Sunday to focus on ways to ensure a successful pathway from high school to adulthood. Dr. Mauricio spoke about his personal journey from his childhood in New York City; his pathway to college; and his calling to a career in education. He discussed four critical attributes that helped him throughout his life and closed with the advice that "your effort is equal to your altitude in life".



Dr. Mauricio and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier Flores met with Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scout Executive/COO Mr. Daniel Connif and his staff to discuss a partnership through our Saturday Academy program, where they will come and provide hands-on activities. The group also discussed a potential summer program that our students would be eligible to join.



Dr. Mauricio and Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with Peekskill attorney Lissette Fernandez, Esq. Ms. Fernandez reached out to the District to discuss a partnership where she will provide parent

workshops on immigration laws to our families at a Saturday Academy session and at our Parent Center. We look forward to this collaboration.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Dan Callahan and Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace met with My Brother's Keeper consultant Ed Lawson to discuss our MBK initiatives and our pathway forward. Stay tuned for more exciting opportunities for our students and the community.



As part of his weekly School Supports visit, Dr. Mauricio met with building leaders at Woodside Elementary and Peekskill High School.

At Woodside, Dr. Mauricio toured classrooms witnessing active learning led by teachers and spoke with students about the differences between fiction and non-fiction writing. He also observed children keeping active and fit in exercise activities while in gym class. While at Woodside, Dr. Mauricio also noticed that the school's attendance board was already showing

improvements since the previous month. Way to go Woodside, and thank you to Principal Aviles-Rodriguez, her staff and central office leaders for all that you did this week.

At Peekskill High School, Dr. Mauricio met with PHS leadership to discuss graduation and planning for next school year. PHS Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur leads the team in deep inquiry focused on student outcomes in school and beyond.



Peekskill Science Research (PSR) program student Hope Dias recently attended the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) Conference at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. Ms. Dias presented her research project titled, "Examining the Relationship of Depression and Multitasking in Early Multiple Sclerosis Using a Novel Measure." Her research was conducted at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City in the summer of 2018. Ms. Dias is the first Peekskill student to attend an international conference to present her original research! Special thanks to PHS Science Research teacher Mrs. Erum Hadi for accompanying Ms. Dias to NYC. She is an exemplar of what our students accomplish today and the greatness they will achieve tomorrow!



Our Music in Our Schools Month Concert took place this week at Peekskill Middle School. Student musicians from across our District showcased their talents and professed their love for this art form. Bravo to all of our performers and the music teachers that made the day possible. Music truly does matter in Peekskill Schools! You can [see a photo album from the event here](#). Click here to [watch a video of the show's finale](#).



Dr. Mauricio met with cabinet members and school leaders to discuss our use of student data to drive instruction and decisions. Each principal spoke about their school's actions in leading this

important work. Kudos to our school leaders and teachers for continually focusing on this effort to improve student outcomes!



Peekskill High School students have been working behind the scenes with Robotics teacher Mr. Carlo Vidrini, Cable TV Director Mr. Doug Brown and the production team at Peekskill's Good for You Studios to create a highlight video for the PHS Robotics' program. This video will be used to promote our students' participation in the city-wide Art Industry Media (AIM) event on April 13 from 2-4 p.m. at Peekskill High School. Please mark your calendar and stop by the school. Click here to read [the PHS Robotics Team's AIM spotlight](#) and see the flyer below for more information!



Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber  
of Commerce Presents

**AIM**  
artindustrymedia.com

**AIM '19**  
APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup>

*Peekskill Schools*      PAA  
PEEKSKILL ARTS ALLIANCE

**PEEKSKILL HIGH SCHOOL  
ROBOTICS PROGRAM**  
SATURDAY - APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
FROM 2:00-4:00PM | PEEKSKILL HIGH SCHOOL  
1072 ELM ST, PEEKSKILL, NY  
INTERACTIVE ROBOTICS DEMONSTRATION, DRONE FLYING AND  
TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY AND PROGRAMMING

PEEKSKILL ARTS ALLIANCE WILL BE PRESENTING  
**"PAINTING POETRY"**  
SUNDAY - APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
FROM 2:00-4:00PM | ANTONIA'S STUDIO 4  
925 SOUTH ST, PEEKSKILL, NY  
"PAINTING POETRY" SHOWCASES THE CREATIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
PAINTERS OF THE PAA AND POETS OF THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO**

The Peekskill City School District is excited to be hosting a Special Olympics Track Time Event on Saturday, April 6 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Torpy Field. We will need volunteers to help with various tasks throughout the day. The first 150 people to sign-up to volunteer by March 24 will receive a free t-shirt to wear at the event. (T-shirt sizes will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.) Special thanks to Peekskill Middle School teacher Ms. Cami Blazejewski for organizing this event. [You can sign up here to volunteer.](#)



The Peekskill High School Drama Club will be presenting "Grease" on April 25, 26 and 27 in the PHS Theater. [Tickets are on sale now here](#) and will be available at the door as well. After seeing a sneak preview of the show at this week's Music in Our Schools Month concert, we can't wait to see the production in its entirety - save the date!



We closed out the week with a great Professional Learning Day! Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all of our staff members who have contributed to our success as a District. Dr. Mauricio honored leaders of the past; thanked our present team; and presented our “Peekskill Promise” as a pathway for the future. Our central office leaders highlighted their great accomplishments and were received by enthusiastic cheers and applause from our staff. We hope you found the day to be an enriching experience - the best is yet to come! And for those of you who did not have the opportunity to get a photo op with our favorite marsupial, don’t worry - you can catch Dunkaroo the Kangaroo at our next Saturday Academy on March 23 at Peekskill Middle School. The District is currently looking into funding opportunities that would enable us to bring Dunkaroo, and his animal friends from the continents of Africa, Australia, South America and North America, into our classrooms to enrich our curriculum.



Enjoy your weekend and Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Dr. Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools