

Superintendent's Communication Brief: April 8 - 13, 2019

This week, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan met with Peekskill City Historian Mr. Frank Goderre and Mr. Jeff Canning to discuss a collaboration with Peekskill High School's social studies courses. Mr. Goderre and Mr. Canning will help tie in Peekskill's rich history with our students' lessons.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendents Mr. Dan Callahan and Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with Ms. Amy-Simone Erard of the Hudson Valley Islamic Community Center. The group discussed the importance of cultural understanding for our diverse student population.



Dr. Mauricio met with Dinora Pacheo of the Hispanic Coalition of Peekskill to discuss collaborations that will increase the engagement of our families and the community. They also discussed schools and community programs.



Under the leadership of PCSD Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Coordinator of Special Services Ms. Sadika Clarke, this week members of PCSD staff attended a series of workshops focused on the District-wide strategic implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The conference was provided by facilitator Rob Schamberg, of Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), who are the leading experts in SEL around the country. Other PCSD participants included: PHS CSE Chairperson Ms. Mabel Vasquez, K-8 CSE Chairperson Ms. Kelly Lefevre, School Social Worker Ms. Ana Bueno and School Counselor Ms. Rachel Moczarski.



This week, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores joined Peekskill parents on the District's annual visit to Manhattanville College for the 10th Annual Hispanic Parent Leadership Conference. Parents were able to attend various workshops and information sessions. Those who attended the trip will be able to take the information they received and share it with their fellow parents.



This week, District Communication Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore held a Rebranding Committee meeting with volunteers who have offered their time to help with our District's rebranding initiative. The group included Board Trustee Mrs. Branwen MacDonald, PHS Alumni Ms. Natalie Chau of Good for You Productions, PCSD Cable TV Director Mr. Doug Brown, Mr. Glenn Smith of GFS Design Group, community member Ms. Lise Prown, and PTO Vice President and Communications Chair Ms. Isabel Pipolo. The committee reviewed community input from PCSD's "Love Letters to Peekskill" campaign and looked through Peekskill yearbooks dating back to the 1920s to find consistent messages that speak to PCSD's mission statement and core values. The team also reviewed past and current logos and taglines, and discussed the District's work moving forward, using the "Peekskill Promise" as a guiding light. The information produced from the brainstorming session was passed on to the project's artistic lead, Ms. Meredith Harte, a graphic designer who will be helping to design the District's new logo.



“Grease is the word!” The Peekskill High School Drama Company is inching closer to the opening night of their spring musical, “Grease!” Find all of the information you need to attend and purchase tickets by [clicking here](#). Shows will be April 25-April 27 at PHS.



The Peekskill City School District is excited to announce that on April 10, our Peekskill High School students in the PHS Academic Competition Club won **first place** in the Westchester Business Olympics, hosted by the African American Men of Westchester and Morgan Stanley! Our students outperformed 14 other schools who participated in this year’s competition. This marks two consecutive years that the team has come in first place, and three times in the past six years (2013, 2018 and 2019) that they have achieved top honors! In the coming weeks, the top three teams will be recognized at a special awards ceremony dinner. As the first place winner, our students will receive gold medals and laptops. Peekskill High School will also receive a trophy in recognition of our students’ accomplishments. We thank Peekskill High School teacher Ms. Zorelle Rodriguez-Alcazar for her leadership.



At a Peekskill Board of Education meeting this week, Dr. Mauricio joined Board members in honoring our students (PKMS' Kiarra Manning, Leysha and Leonah Esteves, and Hillcrest's Derek Frega) who participated in the BASF You Be the Chemist Challenge. We wish them great luck in the next round of this competition! PKMS Teacher Cami Basso was also honored for organizing the Peekskill Special Olympics event, and PHS student athlete Mr. Shion Darby was honored for his athletic achievements. Also at the meeting, PHS Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur gave a comprehensive overview of the great work being accomplished at Peekskill High School this year. Additionally, Assistant Superintendent for Business Mrs. Robin Zimmerman presented the 2019-2020 Educational Plan and Budget, which was adopted by the Board at the meeting.



The Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization hosted their monthly general meeting this week at the District's Administration Building. The meeting included a special 2019-2020 Educational

Plan and Budget presentation from Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Zimmerman. The presentation was well received by the audience.



This week, over 60 guests attended Peekskill City School District's MBK Local Action Summit, which aimed to bring together community partners and stakeholders to address the six milestones of Peekskill's My Brother's Keeper initiative. The event was led by Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan, with support from Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores. Speakers included Superintendent Dr. Mauricio, Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur and City of Peekskill Mayor Mr. Andre Rainey. At the event, attendees discussed the action steps that will be used to create a strategic plan for the City and District's support of our MBK students.



As our District prepared to enter spring break, Peekskill Middle School hosted a spirit day to give students some recreational time to spend with each other in school before the break. Students were able to pick from a multitude of activities that included both indoor and outdoor athletic games, music and dance in the cafeteria, art, card games and more! Some students used the time to challenge themselves academically, playing math games on computers and/or catching up on school work in the library.



Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster met with Woodside Principal Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, District and BOCES staff and community members to continue the planning for the ribbon cutting of the newly installed greenhouse in the Woodside Elementary courtyard. Please join us May 31, from 6-8 p.m. for the ribbon cutting.



Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting

Friday, May 31, 2019

6-8 p.m.

at Woodside Elementary School
612 Depew Street

*Rain date:

June 8 from 2-4 p.m.



Special thanks to those who made our
greenhouse possible!

Talented Peekskill CSD artists participated in Steel Imagination's collaborative art show at BeanRunner Cafe on April 13. Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores attended the event to give greetings. Thank you to Mr. Morel of Arts10566 and Mr. Steiner of PNW BOCES for hosting this great student showcase!



On Saturday, April 13, the Peekskill High School Robotics team showcased their current projects as part of the city-wide AIM '19 event! The day featured a Rube Goldberg machine, drones, robots and more! We thank the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this day a success. We're already looking forward to next year! [See more photos from the event here.](#)



Have a great weekend and a relaxing break!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools