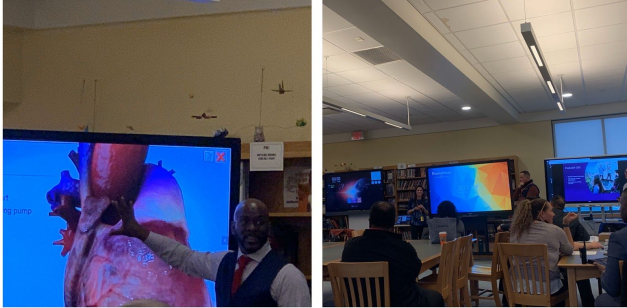
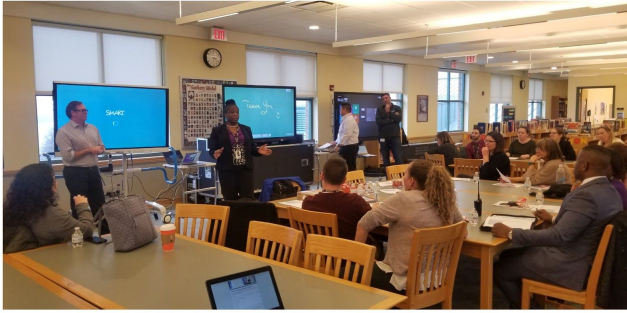




This week, District leadership teams from Peekskill and Ossining school districts met to review their data systems, data dashboards and Graduation Trackers. While together, the two districts also spoke about other areas of collaboration, such as our My Brother's Keeper and Dual Language programs. We thank Ossining Superintendent Dr. Ray Sanchez, his leadership members and our team for this continued collaboration.



This week, Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid arranged for five Interactive Display Panels to be demonstrated side-by-side for teachers and administrators in the Peekskill Middle School library. This session allowed teachers to learn about each display board's capabilities and gain their feedback on the new technology as the district prepares to replace the current interactive boards. We are very excited about this opportunity for our teachers and students.



Oakside assistant principal and Peekskill Basics lead Mrs. Staci Woodley was joined by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, Uriah Hill Principal Mrs. Carmen Vargas and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores. Together, the team led a meeting at the BeanRunner Cafe for the Peekskill Area Pastors Association (PAPA) to discuss the continued enhancements of the Peekskill Basics program and its initiatives.



This week, representatives from Latino U came to Peekskill High School to give a presentation and share college information with students and parents. Thank you to Latino U's Shirley

Buenopрте-Acevedo for bringing this resource to Peekskill families and to City of Peekskill Councilman Ramon Fernandez for also taking time to speak to parents. Additional thanks to the Peekskill High School administrative team that arranged the visit, and to the District leadership that came out to show their support.



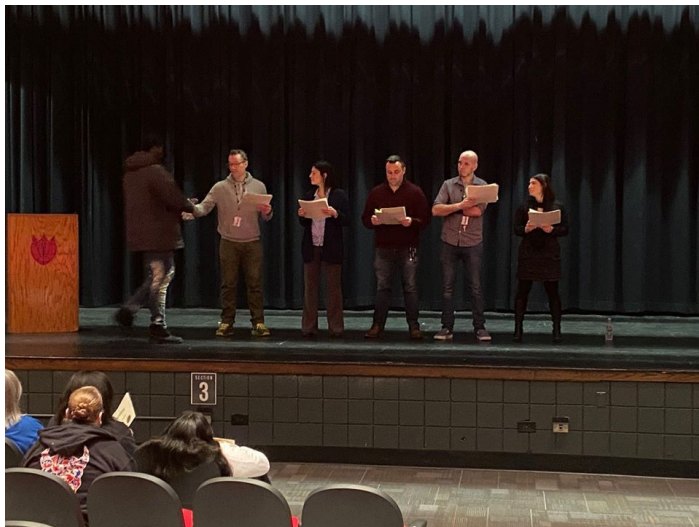
Thank you to everyone who helped make this week's PHS Blood Drive a success! Shoutout to the PHS Interact Club for organizing the event, and to our amazing donors and volunteers.



The Peekskill City School District would like to thank Entergy for a generous donation of \$50,000. This funding will go to support our Robotics and STEM initiatives. We thank high school teacher Mrs. Michelle Obenauer and Entergy for their continued supports.



This week, the high school's PACE team recognized students for their achievements during the second quarter. All students were recognized for either academics, attendance or a positive personality trait. Special thanks to the entire PACE team for coordinating this event, providing refreshments for the students and always going the extra mile to make our students feel appreciated!



Congratulations to Peekskill Middle School Principal Mr. Jamal Lewis and Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur, both of whom were recognized by the City of Peekskill this week in honor of Black History Month. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Arthur were invited to attend a celebration at City Hall. Dr. Mauricio, Peekskill Board President Mrs. Maria Pereira, Trustee Ms. Branwen MacDonald, Trustee Mr. Allen Jenkins, and many Peekskill administrators and staff came out to show their support. Thank you Mr. Lewis and Mr. Arthur for all that you do for our students and community. You make us proud!



This week, our PHS culinary students prepared and served breakfast to the Peekskill Professional Firefighters at Peekskill's Central Station. This is a great example of our District's monthly Commitment to Character theme of sharing love. Parents, speak to your children about how they can show love to their family, neighbors, friends, classmates and staff to help us strengthen our Commitment to Character initiative. Teachers and staff members, [check out this website for ideas](#) on how we can show our students that we care for them!



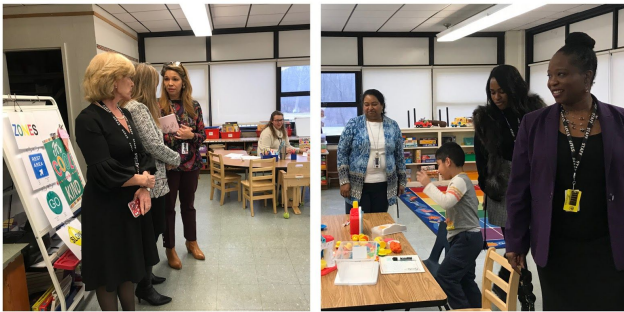
Local artist Sandra Bennett Pagan will be working with the Peekskill Middle School Art Club students over the next few weeks. The students looked at and discussed artwork from African American artists. The club members then drew their own pictures inspired by the art. Each student provided feedback to their peers.



As part of his weekly School Supports visits, Dr. Mauricio, joined by district leadership, met with Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur and Assistant Principal Ms. Smith-Moore this week. The team discussed the graduation progress, visited classrooms and reviewed data. At the request of Mr. Arthur, Dr. Mauricio and central office leaders will “adopt” 2-3 seniors each to serve as “Graduation Champions”. We will meet with our students bi-weekly to coach them and help ensure that they remain on their pathway to graduation this June. The group also toured the building with Director of Facilities Mr. Carmine Crisci to discuss ideas for improving the school environment for our students.



As part of the weekly School Supports initiative this week, Dr. Mary Keenan Foster led a visit to Woodside Elementary. Dr. Foster was joined by Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid, Coordinator of Special Services Ms. Sadika Clarke and Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin. Together, the group visited special education and other classrooms, discussed academic progress and ideas on how best to accomplish Woodside Principal Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez’s vision.



Once again, the Peekskill City School District partnered with the Peekskill PTO to ask our students what they love to learn at Peekskill Schools and they responded with hundreds of thoughtful valentines! This is just another way we at PCSD are sharing love for the month of February.



Peekskill High School students in the My Brother's Keeper program attended the NYS MBK Fellows Stand and Deliver Conference in Albany this weekend. They joined students from across the State. While at the event, students heard from guest speaker Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt and others. Our students spoke to the large audience to practice their public speaking skills. Students also visited the NYS Museum where a tribute to Regent Judith Johnson was on display. Thank you to PHS Assistant Principal Dr. Margie Daniels and MBK Mentor Leader Mr. Mark Andjuar for accompanying our students on this meaningful trip.



Our middle school Peekskill MBK students worked on boat building with Mr. Taylor this week. We can't wait to see these boats when they get in the water!



This week, the Peekskill City School District and the City of Peekskill, in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, hosted an informational meeting for community partners. Dr. Mauricio, City of Peekskill Councilman Mr. Ramon Fernandez and PCSD Communications Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore greeted guests, spoke about the importance of informing the Peekskill community about participating in the U.S. Census and provided information for partners to take with them. A presentation from Census Partnership Specialist Mr. Mario Garcia followed, which explained the census process in detail. A public information session will be held at Peekskill Middle School on Thursday, March 26 for anyone seeking to learn more about the 2020 Census. Let us all do our part to ensure that everyone, adult and child, is counted and that Peekskill receives the federal funds and services that we deserve.



Jackie Levine, Coordinator of School Leadership and Marketing Services at PNW BOCES, met with PCSD building leaders, Mr. Jamal Lewis and Mrs. Staci Woodley, and district leaders, Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Ms. Madeline Sanchez and Dr. Anchala Sobrin to brainstorm ideas for leadership opportunities for the Peekskill City School District. We look forward to the continued partnership with the Center for Educational Leadership and appreciate the individual fact-finding session that will result in workshops and trainings specific to our District's needs.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Peekskill PTO's general meeting this week. PTO president and leaders and Dr. Mauricio gave an update on District's accomplishments. The families in attendance received information on the upcoming 2020 Census. The evening also included an amazing Black History Month celebration featuring the Peekskill City Singers, readings from students of all ages, and special presentations from local community members.



On Valentine's Day, a few of our middle school MBK students went to Drum Hill to hand out flowers to residents in celebration of the holiday. The boys also toured the building and learned about its history as the old junior high school. They even met a former Drum Hill student from the 1930s! Again, Peekskill students are embracing our monthly Commitment to Character theme of "Sharing Love."



Congratulations to the Peekskill's Boys Varsity Basketball team and the Eastchester team for a great playoff game. Our Red Devils won the Class A round on Saturday! Their next game will take place at Byram Hills High School on Friday at 5 p.m. Let's go Red Devils! Congratulations to Eastchester for a great season.



Our advocacy season will soon be winding down as the date is quickly approaching when the Governor will sign the State's 2021 budget, but for now there is still time for you to help Peekskill Schools as we continue to request fair and equitable funding for our students. [Click here](#) (or visit the website icon below) to download a sample letter to sign and mail to the Governor's office, showing that you support fair funding for our children. You can also drop your letters off at the District Administration office located at 1031 Elm Street. Together, we can help ensure our District's needs are met.



Have a wonderful and restful week. This is a great time to reflect on attendance, grades, catch up on school-work and think about other ways in which students can end the year impactfully. It is also a great time to visit the Field Library, read to your children daily and discuss their dreams for the school year which they established in September.

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools