



This week, Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin led the District's second STEAM Council meeting. This session focused on starting to build a vision for STEM in Peekskill. Together, the group defined what a STEM mindset looks like, and discussed how students can use 21st Century skills to solve real world problems.



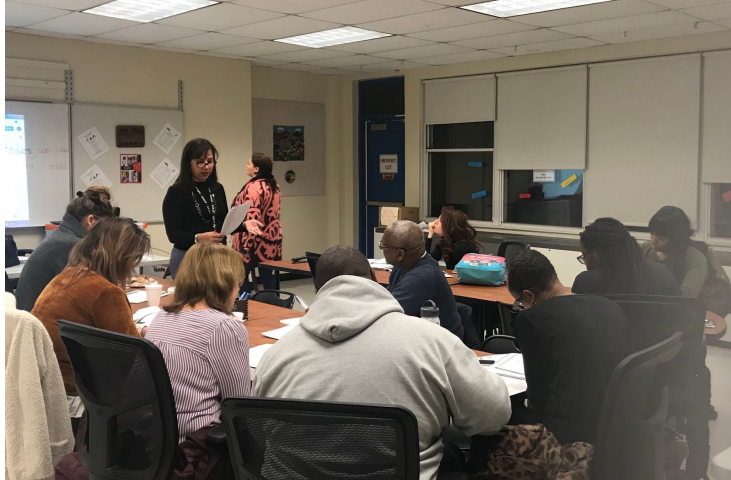
Peekskill High School students Luke Torres Rossi and Stefon Dabbs were honored by the African American Men of Westchester at the organization's 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Youth Luncheon on January 20. Mr. Torres Rossi received the Vision Award while Mr. Dabbs received the William L. Carter Perseverance Award. Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur joined the young men, who were also accompanied by the MBK Black Diamonds, elected officials, peers and family members who joined in the celebration.



Many members of the Peekskill Schools' community were excited to see one of our very own Peekskill CSD families highlighted in LoHud this week! [Watch this video](#) to learn why this couple chose our great City and hear about their positive experiences at our school district. Our Dual Language program, supportive teachers, an awesome diverse community and great friends are just a few of the wonderful things they mentioned that make our District a special place to learn.



Our Spanish for Parents classes kicked off at our Parent Resource Center this week! The turnout for the first class was great, but there's still room for more participants. Classes are free and will take place every Wednesday that schools are in session until mid-June. [Visit our Parent Center webpage](#) for more information, or call (914) 739-0682 ext. 7102 to register.



This week, 90 Peekskill Middle School eighth grade science students took a field trip to the Hudson River Museum. While visiting, they collected data about planets, classified objects in our Solar System and had an out of this world experience at the planetarium. A PKMS student shared what they learned in [this video](#).



As part of his weekly School Supports visits, this week Dr. Mauricio was joined at Oakside Elementary by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Foster, Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid and Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke. Oakside Acting Principal Mrs. Crystal Hernandez led the group on a tour of the building. Together, the group witnessed amazing bulletin board displays created by our teachers and staff. One such bulletin board, is the college board that highlights where our teachers obtained their degrees. This board is located in a predominant location so it is highly visible when students and parents enter the school. The group also discussed how the school will impactfully culminate the second half of the year. Great work Mrs. Hernandez, Mrs. Woodley and staff!



Congratulations once again to Peekskill High School's Madeline Cairl, who was recognized by Dr. Mauricio and our Board of Education (BOE) at this week's BOE meeting. Ms. Cairl was selected as the first place winner of the 2019 American Freedom Essay Contest and has won a free field trip for her entire class to visit the Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia!



Congratulations to Peekskill High School cheerleader Jewel Travis and Bowling Team member Tylell Linen who have each been named our Athletic Department's, "Athlete of the Month!"



This week, Dr. Mauricio, Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Coordinator of Special Services Ms. Sadika Clark joined Dr. Brown, parent of Peekskill students and Deputy Superintendent of Arlington Schools, to discuss improving our restorative practices.



This week, Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan and Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin met with local resident Mr. Marlon Mahon, who is a Practice Area Lead for Slalom, a modern consulting firm focused on strategy, technology, and business transformation. Slalom sponsors a program called “Partners for Good,” where their employees give back to the local community. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for Slalom to partner with Peekskill Schools.



Our Commitment to Character theme for the month of January is, "Collaboration." In keeping with this theme, Peekskill High School teacher Ms. Nicole Kossowsky took five PHS students to Hillcrest Elementary to work with three of Ms. Coleman's Grade 4 art classes. Read more about this project [here](#).



This week, the Peekskill Youth Bureau honored the MBK Black Diamonds as part of their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. The event recognized students for their academic and civic accomplishments. Special thanks to Youth Bureau Executive Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald and Youth Bureau Senior Youth Advocate Mr. Darryl Francis for their work coordinating the event. Additional thanks to Mr. Martin McDonald for his dedication in leading our students in the Black Diamond program, and to Assemblywoman Sandy Galef for speaking at the event as well. It was wonderful to see so many PCSD staff members come out to support our students at the celebration.



Our Athletic Department has named our latest honorary captains! Congratulations to Noah Chico, Jordyn Jerry, and Kevin Erazo who are the official honorary captains of the PHS Wrestling Team! These young students have demonstrated Peekskill Pride, as well as positive attitudes and effort!



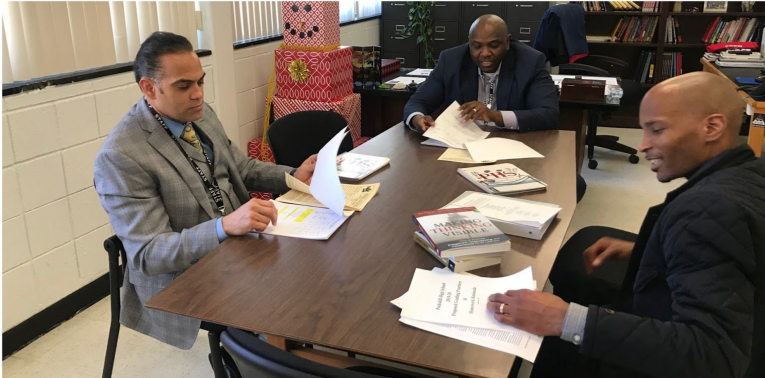
Our Peekskill Basics team met this week and members were hard at work planning for the spring. Thank you to Mrs. Staci Woodley and Ms. Ana Budds for leading this important work.



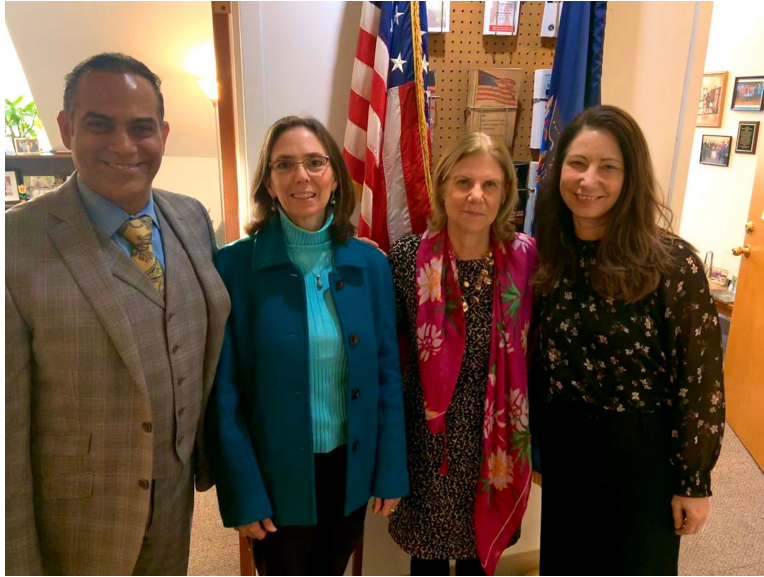
This week, our security team participated in a two-day training workshop that focused on de-escalation strategies and how to build strong relationships with our students.



This week, Dr. Mauricio and Board Trustee Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr. met with Peekskill High School Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur to discuss high school curriculum and the school's successes. The group reviewed several documents, including the high school's 2019 profile, the PHS course catalogue and other artifacts. While visiting the building, Dr. Mauricio and Mr. Jenkins took a moment to speak with PHS student Miss Samantha Saca about her positive experiences at Peekskill High School.



Our Advocacy Committee continues their work this week by meeting with Senator Shelley Mayer. Board Trustee Ms. Branwen MacDonald and PTO representative Ms. Margery Rossi joined Dr. Mauricio as the group continued important discussions focused on the equitable funding of Peekskill Schools. To learn more on how YOU can help support PCSD in our efforts to secure funding from NYS, please [click here to visit our District website advocacy page](#).



Peekskill Middle School's, "Frozen, Jr." was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came out and support our talented students! Bravo to the cast and crew, and to PKMS Drama Club advisors Ms. Cynthia Reynolds, Mr. Kevin Larsen, Mr. Mitchell Guido and Ms. Carolee Finny! Shoutout to Mr. Jon Harrison and Mr. Mel Bolden for their tech assistance with the production as well. [See more photos from the show here.](#)



On Saturday, March 7, Peekskill High School will be hosting the 2020 Rube Goldberg Machine Contest! This year's challenge asks teams to turn off a light. This contest is open to other districts and will have Division I (ages 11-14) and Division II (ages 14-18) categories.

Registration closes February 20, 2020. Register now at: www.rubegoldberg.com Please help us spread the word to other schools outside of Peekskill!



START A TEAM AND REGISTER FOR THE RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINE CONTEST!

DIVISIONS: Division I: Ages 11-14 and Division II: Ages 14-18
WHERE: Peekskill High School, 1072 Elm St., Peekskill, New York
WHEN: Saturday, March 07, 2020
REGISTRATION DEADLINE.....FEBRUARY 20, 2020

REGISTER NOW AT: www.rubegoldberg.com
facebook.com/rubegoldbergofficial/ twitter.com/rubegoldberg instagram.com/rubegoldberg/

Please join Superintendent Mauricio at the District Administration Center on Thursday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. for our Conversations with the Superintendent event. Light refreshments will be served.



Our next Saturday Academy will take place on February 8 from 10AM-1PM at Peekskill Middle School. We will be celebrating Black History Month as a Peekskill community. Representatives from the NAACP will have a special activity and New Era Creative Space will have a performance at 11:45AM in the PKMS auditorium. The Two By Two Zoo will also be there as well. Join us for crafts, workshops and more!



Have a great weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools