

Superintendent's Communication Brief: July 1 - August 2, 2019

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far! As a reminder, our Superintendent's Brief will have one more monthly edition at the end of August before returning to weekly editions this September.

Our FREE Summer Lunch program is taking place until August 8! This year, meals have been served Monday through Thursday at Peekskill High School, Dunbar Heights and the Kiley Youth Center from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Meals are also being served at Oakside Elementary, Peekskill Middle School and the Peekskill Youth Bureau for children attending those programs ONLY. Please note that these three sites are NOT open to the public for this program. There are no income requirements and no registration is necessary. Any child who is 18 years old or younger is eligible for meals. For more information, contact (914) 737-0201 Ext. 3725. or [click here](#). Special thanks to our Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Robin Zimmerman, PCSD Food Service Director Mr. Andrew Weisman and their department staff for helping to implement this program.



Congratulations to our new Board of Education President Mrs. Maria Pereira and to our new BOE Vice President Mrs. Jillian Villon! We would also like to thank Mr. Michael Simpkins for his work as BOE President this past year, and for his dedication to this Board since 2002! At the July 2nd Board meeting, we also recognized Mr. Simpkins, Mrs. Villon and Mrs. Hallman-Johnson (not pictured) for their NYS School Board Association honors, which acknowledged the time these board members have put into NYSSBA's leadership workshops.



The Peekskill City School District is excited to welcome our newest members of the administrative team to our Peekskill family! Click on the links below to learn more about our recent hires. We look forward to great accomplishments under their leadership.

[Dr. Anchala Sobrin, Director of STEM](#)

[Mr. Austin Goldberg, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics](#)

[Ms. Madeline Sanchez, Director of Multilingual Learners](#)



Each summer, PCSD leadership participates in a two week long Administrative Retreat. This year's event kicked off at Bear Mountain, where staff enjoyed team building activities, leadership reflections, data analysis and 2019-2020 planning. The team had the opportunity to venture out of the office as a unit, and enjoyed collaborating in a park setting on a perfect summer day!



If you've passed by Peekskill High School recently, you've probably noticed the new artwork on the building's wall. We're excited to announce that the mural is now complete! The project was a collaboration between 100+ Peekskill High School art students who spent the spring working with Hudson Valley MOCA artist Ms. Alice Mizrahi to create the large scale mural. Special thanks to PHS Art Teachers Heather Brown, Nicole Kossowsky and Elizabeth Tabone for their leadership on this beautiful addition to our school community. [Click here to read more](#) about the project.



Dr. Mauricio met with Assistant Superintendents Dr. Mary Keenan Foster and Mr. Dan Callahan, PKMS Principal Mr. Jamal Lewis, Hillcrest Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner and Board of Education trustee/parent Ms. Branwen MacDonald to discuss our District's Dual Language program and continued alignment efforts. The purpose of the meeting was to review how students transition from Dual Language classes at the elementary level to the secondary level.



As part of our Administrative Retreat activities, Peekskill team members attended the 6th Annual Regional Leadership Conference at PNW BOCES. PCSD's Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores presented on Parent, Family and Community Engagement at the event.



Our Peekskill High School Interact Club members recently held a Summer Blood Drive in the PHS Library. Thank you to all who came out to give the gift of life!



Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin and Director of Multilingual Learners Ms. Madeline Sanchez met with Associate Superintendent Darlene Jesonowski of Buffalo Schools to engage in data analysis of student achievement. Mrs. Jesonowski then joined our administrators at our Administrative Retreat to share her knowledge of data driven instruction with our elementary and District leaders.



Dr. Mauricio, Peekskill High School Assistant Principal Dr. Jenna Ferris, Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores attended the Peekskill Youth Bureau's Anti-Bullying/Anti-Drug Carnival on July 12. The event focused on having a positive mindset and caring for each other. Special thanks to Youth Bureau Executive Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald for inviting PCSD to represent at this important event.



PCSD Communication Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore presented to District leaders as part of our Administrative Retreat. Ms. Belfiore presented drafts of our new elementary mascot designs and District logo, discussed aligning communication efforts across the District, and reviewed social media best practices for staff. We look forward to unveiling our new elementary mascots and District logo shortly.



Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with members of the Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization to discuss themes and activities for this year's upcoming Saturday Academy dates. This year will continue the success of 2018-19 and add a family-oriented academic focus. The dates will be posted on our website and noted in the District calendar which is sent home.



It is with great pride that we celebrate our own Assistant Superintendent for Business Mrs. Robin Zimmerman for being selected to receive the prestigious Distinguished Eagle Award from the Association of School Business Officials. The award recognizes K–12 business professionals for their exemplary leadership and contributions to their districts and the school business profession. This award is the highest honor that a school business official can receive! Ms. Zimmerman’s commitment to the Peekskill City School District and our children knows no boundaries and is evident in her tireless efforts. She is a true champion for Peekskill. Read more about Ms. Zimmerman’s award [here](#).



The Peekskill Education Foundation recently hosted a concert fundraiser, with all proceeds from the event going to support Peekskill Schools. Many Board of Education members, administrators and staff attended to show their support. Special thanks to singer-songwriter

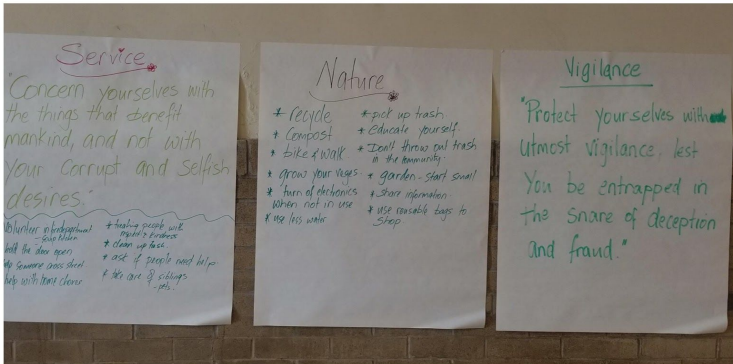
Francesca Beghe for sharing her musical talents with us for the evening and for choosing the foundation to benefit our students.



In the final days of our Administrative Retreat the Peekskill City School District welcomed Misha Thomas of Cornell University, who came to share Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training with our administrative team. This work is an important part of supporting the whole child.



While school is out, many of our students are staying healthy and engaged with a summer camp program run by our community partner, New Era Creative Space. The program hosts workshops and activities, such as yoga, in our Administration Building and allows the children to explore nature in Depew Park.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan and Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace participated in a joint meeting with Peekskill Chief Halmy and our School Resource Officers. The group discussed plans for an Explorer Program for students interested in law enforcement as a career choice. We look forward to this great partnership.



All PCSD principals presented on data driven practices and their work in the 2019-20 school year. This work continues to build upon the past and guides us in a strategic manner for the future. Their energy and passion was evident in each school's presentation.



PCSD administrators participated in a joint meeting during the retreat with the Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization to discuss improved connections with schools, synergizing our efforts and improving communication efforts.



Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Coordinator of Student Support Services Sadika Clarke attended the Supportive Practices Conference in Albany hosted by the NY Council of Administrators for Special Education. Keynote speakers focused on topics such as inclusion, equity, social emotional learning and more.



Dr. Mauricio and PCSD administrators met with Director of Westchester Community College Sherry Mayo and her colleagues to explore a stronger focus on our collaboration. WCC serves as a great partner for our high school exemplified by students earning numerous college credits during the time in our District.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with the NAACP Education Committee leadership to discuss further collaborations. A major focus will be on enhancing the Peekskill Basics initiative, which focuses on supporting parents and children ages birth to age 3.



Dr. Mauricio, Director of STEM Dr. Sobrin and Assistant Superintendent Dan Callahan recently met with Wheelabrator Plant Manager Mr. Brett Baker. The group discussed developing a partnership that would foster opportunities for guest speakers, site visits and potential internships for students. Mr. Baker also expressed an interest in getting involved with our Saturday Academy program. We look forward to this great partnership with a Peekskill company.



Dr. Mauricio met with District Parent Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores and Peekskill Youth Bureau Executive Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald to discuss planning for several upcoming community events, including the National Night Out event taking place on August 6th and the Back to School Rally on August 16 (see flyer below).



Dr. Mauricio and Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace met with Isai Fuentes and Maria Leff of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to see how PCSD can continue to support their community efforts. Please join us at the upcoming Walk Like MADD event by joining the Peekskill PTO's team. The team sign-up link will be shared in the near future.



Hillcrest Elementary recently hosted their Summer Check-In event to help students and their families stay engaged over the summer. The next Hillcrest Check-In will take place on August 27th at 12 p.m.



Thank you to everyone that came out to visit and support the Peekskill Education Foundation at the Hudson Valley Expo! Thanks to donations received at the event, PEF was able to raise \$331 towards their goal of \$2,000, which will be used to supply books to our school classrooms!



Class Parents are needed at our Peekskill Elementary Schools! The Peekskill Parent-Teacher Organization is looking for parent volunteers to help out in classrooms. [Click here](#) to learn more. The deadline to sign-up has been extended until August 16th.



We are pleased to announce that Uriah Hill Elementary will join our other elementary schools in hosting the Healthy Kids Before/After School program for the 2019-2020 school year! Please see the flyer below for more information. You can [click here to learn more](#) about our Health Kids program. This will serve as a valuable resource for parents who need this opportunity.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

DROP-OFF AS EARLY AS 7:00AM
PICK-UP AS LATE AS 6:00PM

PROGRAMAS ANTES/DESPUES DE ESCUELA

DEJAR A LAS 7:00AM
CON RECOGIDO HASTA LAS 6:00PM



Peekskill City School District

• *Uriah Hill Elementary*

Activities

- Homework completion—Tarea
- Recreation—Recreacion
- Arts & Crafts—Artesanias
- Fun—Diversión
- Friendship building—Creando amistades

Before School Fees

Before School 7AM Drop Off	Before School Fees Siblings save 10%	Fees for families qualifying for free/reduced lunch
5 days/week	\$95/week	\$70/week
4 days/week	\$85/week	\$60/week
3 days/week	\$60/week	\$55/week
2 days/week	\$40/week	\$35/week
1 day/week	\$30/week	\$325/week

After School Fees

After School 6:00PM Pick Up	After School Fees Siblings save 10%	Fees for families qualifying for free/reduced lunch
5 days/week	\$125/week	\$110/week
4 days/week	\$110/week	\$100/week
3 days/week	\$95/week	\$90/week
2 days/week	\$70/week	\$60/week
1 day/week	\$45/week	\$40/week

For children ages 3-12 Para niños de edad 3-12
DSS subsidies gladly accepted. Subsidios de DSS aceptados

Register Online Now—for 2019-20

More information: melissa@healthykidsprograms.com or 845-249-2632

Registration information: Jeanne@healthykidsprograms.com or 845-568-6100 ext. 1002

Register online at www.healthykidsprograms.com



This flyer is being distributed by the School District as a community service to students and parents for information purposes only. This program is not affiliated with nor endorsed in any way by the school district.

As a reminder to our 2019-2020 Peekskill Red Devil athletes, JV and Varsity tryouts on will be on August 19th. Athletes must register on FamilyID by August 16th. Click here to go to our [FamilyID](#) page.

VARSITY & JV Fall Sports Registration is
NOW OPEN on Family ID

FamilyID®

Varsity Registrations MUST be completed by AUGUST 16th, 2019!

Varsity & JV Tryouts Begin August 19th, 2019

Save the date for the 5th Annual Back to School Rally, hosted at Peekskill Middle School. We are proud to partner with the lead organizers at the Peekskill Youth Bureau, and Mount Olivet and Mount Lebanon churches. The event will take place on Friday, August 16th from 4-7 p.m. The event is free to attend! There will be music, refreshments, community partners, community organizations, and free book bags/school supplies on a first come, first serve basis!

5TH ANNUAL
BACK
to School
RALLY

FREE EVENT!

DONATION DROP-OFF:
PCSD
1031 ELM ST.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16
4 PM - 7 PM
PEEKSKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL
212 RINGGLOLD ST.

INFO CONTACT:
MIN. TUESDAY PAIGE MCDONALD
(914) 737-7567

*Book Bags**
*School Supplies**
Face Painting
Music
Refreshments
Health & Wellness
Community Partners
Youth Resources

***WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable end to the summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools