

Superintendent's Communication Brief: June 24 - June 30, 2019

Congratulations to our Peekskill High School seniors who received numerous scholarships and awards at our annual Senior Awards Night on Monday! Thank you to the many schools and organizations that contributed to our students' gifts. We would also like to recognize Mrs. Maria Gordineer for her tireless efforts in helping to secure these funds for our students! See more photos from the event [here](#).



This week, faculty and staff at Peekskill Middle School celebrated the close of the school year by enjoying a luncheon together. PKMS Principal Mr. Jamal Lewis thanked the group for a successful year and wished everyone a relaxing summer. Thank you to Mr. Lewis for sponsoring the lunch and honoring the staff, and thank you to everyone involved who helped make this a great event!



This week also brought the last of our SEPTO yoga sessions with Ms. Karen Faulkner. Ms. Faulkner taught an eight-week course in conjunction with the Peekskill Special Education Parent Teacher Organization and helped provide yoga for our special needs students and their families.



This week, Dr. Mauricio and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier Flores met with Ms. Rebecca Christner, the Executive Director of Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth (Rockland 21C) and Dr. Santiago who supports district leaders. The group discussed the New York State Community Schools Technical Assistance Center's upcoming conference in October at Manhattanville College. At this event, PCSD representatives will learn how to align systems to help support our community school strategies.



This week, the MBK Black Diamonds held an end-of-the-year student and parent celebration. The event recognized this year's accomplishments, including: college tours, a guest speaker series, a focus on improving academics, exploring life goals, and attending regularly scheduled Sunday empowerment meetings. The Peekskill City School District would like to recognize Mr. Martin McDonald for his vision and leadership and the MBK scholars for their commitment to achieve greatness.



This week, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Mr. Dan Callahan and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier Flores met with My Brother's Keeper Consultant Mr. Ed Lawson. The group continued conversations regarding our MBK Local Action Plan and discussed what the 2019-2020 school year will entail for the initiative.



Oakside's recent Grade 3 Awards Night included a special surprise - a group of music students started off the celebration with a mini-concert! The ensemble, directed by Oakside's Music Teacher Cynthia Reynolds, was made up of students who had earned their Music Karate Black Belts in either the Recorder Karate or Strings Karate curriculum. In order to achieve their black belts, students had to master 9 songs of progressive difficulty. The concert included both Black Belt songs, as well as the entire ensemble playing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."



This week Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Dr. Mary Keenan Foster met with the Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization's new class parent chairs, Sarah Paterson and Melanie Fuentes. The group discussed how the District could further support the PTO's class parent initiative.



Congratulations to our Peekskill Middle School Grade 8 students who graduated this week! The graduation was held on Tuesday, June 25 at the Paramount Theater in Peekskill. We look forward to welcoming these students to Peekskill High School in the fall! View more photos from the event [here](#).



Save the date for the PHS Interact Club's summer blood drive on Thursday, July 11 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the PHS Library! To sign up to donate, please call the number listed below or scan the QR code on the flyer.



As a thank you, all donors will receive a specially packaged
Reusable Metal Straw
With cleaning brush!



Peekskill High School

Thursday, July 11
11am 5pm
PHS Library

To make an appointment call 800-933-2566
or scan the QR Code



Donor Requirements:


Must be between 16-75 (16 need parental consent form, age 76 and over - need Doctor's note)
Minimum weight 110 lbs., no non-sterile piercings or new tattoos during past 12 months - unless tattoo was done in NJ.
Bring DONOR CARD or ID with photo or signature. Eat and drink well BEFORE donating.
Questions regarding medical eligibility, call (800) 688-0900 or 1-800-933-2566

The sponsoring high school will receive credit for the blood donations made at its Summer Reunion blood drive
in the school's total # units for the NYBC/ New York Yankees 2019-2020 High School Blood Donor Championship!

New York Blood Center

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with local organizations like Peekskill Schools, to provide free meals to children when school is out for summer vacation. This year, meals will be served Monday through Thursday at Peekskill High School, Dunbar Heights and the Kiley Youth Center from July 1 through August 8, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Meals will also be 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](#). For more information about the national Summer Food Service Program, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.



The poster is for the USDA Summer Meals program. It features a teal header with the USDA logo and the text 'United States Department of Agriculture'. Below the header, on the left, is a graphic that says 'School's Out POWER UP for Summer Fun!' with an upward-pointing arrow. To the right of this, the main title reads 'SUMMER MEALS for KIDS & TEENS' in bold, followed by 'Being Served in Your Community'. A yellow box contains the text: 'To find a location near you, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or go to www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks'. Below this, it says 'OPEN to All Children, 18 and younger' and 'NO Enrollment, NO Cost!'. A QR code is located on the left side of the poster. At the bottom, a white rounded rectangle contains the following information: 'When: July 1st - August 8th 2019, Monday - Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.'; 'Where: Peekskill High School (open site), Dunbar Heights (open site), Kiley Youth Center (open site)'; '* Parks and Rec Day Camp at Peekskill Middle School (closed site)', '* Creative Arts Day Camp at Oakside Elementary (closed site)', '* City of Peekskill Youth Bureau (closed site)'; 'This FREE program is open to all children in the community 18 and younger. No enrollment needed!'; '* Closed site is just for children attending that program'; and 'For more information call: (914) 737-2550 ext. 3725'. A small note at the bottom of the poster states 'USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider'.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Our last week of the 2018-2019 school year concluded with the Peekskill High School Class of 2019 graduation, which was held Sunday, June 30 at the Paramount Theater. We proudly congratulate our graduates and wish them the very best as they move forward into a new chapter of their lives. We applaud our graduates for their hard work and success, and thank the many school, community and family members that supported these students along their educational journey at Peekskill Schools. View over 400 photos from graduation [here](#).



Finally, a few summertime reminders:

Our Lisa Rolleri Parent Center will be OPEN for summer hours during July and August (until August 7) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We also have parent workshops and more planned while school is out. Please [click here for our full Parent Center calendar](#).

Please also note that as of July 1, PCSD's summer hours will be in effect. The District will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

As this school year comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their leadership and support as we work together to offer our students the very best educational experiences. Thank you to our parents and families for supporting us; thank you to our community partners for your collaborative efforts; thank you to our Board of Education and all of our staff who work tirelessly to educate our children. It has been an amazing year and the best still awaits us as we continue our collaborative efforts! We hope you have enjoyed reading this weekly brief. Over the summer, please keep an eye out for a monthly edition of this publication. Thank you to PCSD Communications Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore for helping to coordinate this communication effort.

Wishing you a fun, healthy and relaxing summer!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools