



[Please click here](#) for my most recent (April 1, 2020) letter to families.

Thank you to the 680+ viewers that tuned in for our Virtual Conversations with the Superintendent event last Thursday. The topic for the evening was, "Leading Forward in the COVID-19 Crisis." For those of you who missed the live broadcast, you can [click here](#) to watch a recorded version of the event. Thank you again to Mayor Rainey, Mrs. Tuesday McDonald and Ms. Isabel Pipolo for being our special guests! They are undoubtedly the reason for so many people joining our event. A translated recording in Spanish of this event will be available shortly. As discussed during this event, while we have yet to perfect our approach to supporting our students and families in these new times, our Board, staff and partners are working diligently to grow into our next phase of on-line learning and whole-child/whole-family wellness opportunities. For this, I say THANK YOU to those working on these important tasks!

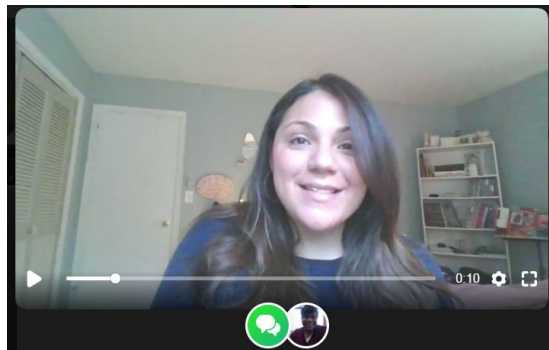
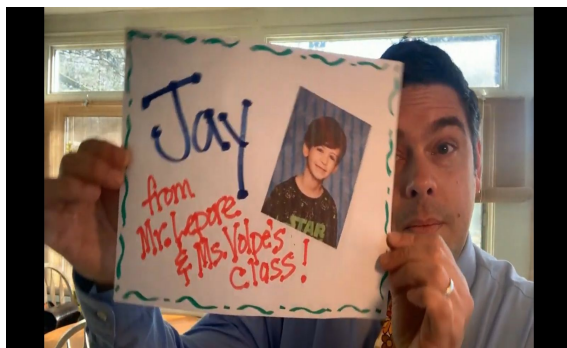
As part of our District's efforts to provide Health and Wellness resources to our community, we have added two yoga videos to our website. These exercises are good for the body and mind,

and can be done by individuals of all ages. Thank you to community partner Ms. Karen Faulkner of Inner Being Yoga for providing these wonderful resources. [Click here](#) to watch these videos.

INNER BEING YOGA FOR GROWING MINDS: VIDEO #1



Shout out to our building principals for keeping our online momentum going! Check out Hillcrest Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner's [morning announcements](#) in which he highlights facts in recognition of Women's History Month, which we celebrated in March. Oakside Principal Mrs. Hernandez is also using Flipgrid to communicate with students and our children are loving these personal interactions. Our principals and teachers are becoming technology wizards! Keep up the great communication, everyone!



The Peekskill City School District would like to remind you that in addition to our regular "Grab & Go" meal program, the District will also be distributing packages of non-perishable food items at Oakside Elementary and Peekskill High School in the coming week. Packages will be distributed from 10AM -12PM and will be available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.



While we certainly have many other things to focus our attention on, let us not forget every family's obligation to help ensure Peekskill receives an accurate count in the 2020 Census. The Decennial Census allocates nearly \$675 billion dollars to governments, schools, hospitals, emergency response services, libraries, and more. Help the Peekskill community receive the funding it needs by taking 10 minutes to answer the 9 questions. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Use the code found in the mailed 'Invitation to Participate' and visit <http://www.my2020census.gov> or call 1-844-330-2020. For more information, [click here](#). You can also [watch this promotional video](#) made by the City, Peekskill CSD and the Field Library for more information.

United States[®]
Census
2020

This week, our school community said goodbye to Omarion McKenzie. Our hearts and prayers continue to be with everyone touched by this loss. As a reminder, we have set up a District "Warm-Line" for anyone wanting to talk about this loss or any challenge you may be facing. You may also call the Westchester County Crisis Prevention & Response Team.

- PCSD "Warm-Line" (daily 9AM-9PM; You will be connected to a member of Peekskill support staff): (914) 522-0624.
- Westchester County Crisis Prevention & Response Team at St. Vincent's Hospital (available 24/7): (914) 925-5959.

While there are few things to say in times like this, I want to remind our community that we will continue to move forward and heal from this together. Our District remains committed to being there to support our families in this time of need, and we do so in partnership with parents, students and our entire community. Please do not hesitate to reach out.



In closing this week, I want to remind everyone that it is our personal responsibility to continue social distancing to the extent that we all are able. As the weather continues to get nicer, all of us will be tempted to resume activities, but we must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect ourselves and others from the spread of COVID-19. Parents, I urge you to encourage your children, especially older children, to remain home and practice the 6 feet rule of distance from others while out of the home. Remind them that this rule applies to the time spent with their close friends as well. While I know that this is difficult, we are reminded by medical professionals that taking action is critical to avoid spreading this insidious disease and to helping prevent the loss of life.



Stay well and positive Peekskill,

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools