

Superintendent's Communication Brief: May 13 -17, 2019

This week, the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union presented Hillcrest Elementary School Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner with a certificate of appreciation for the school's participation in a donation drive! Thank you to all of the staff involved in this effort.



Dr. Mauricio met with the PTO executive committee during their monthly meeting to discuss a summary of recent activities and planning for next year. On behalf of the District, Dr. Mauricio recognized the PTO volunteers for all of their efforts to create a bridge between the District and the parents of our school community. Our PTO members are true partners in the education of our students.



Hillcrest Elementary students enjoyed an author visit with Caroline Moss this week. Ms. Moss writes the, "Work it Girl" series, which are biographies about strong women. Currently, she has published books about JK Rowling and Oprah Winfrey, and in the future, she will be publishing books about Michelle Obama, Mae Jamison, Vera Wang and Beyonce Knowles. Ms. Moss spoke about becoming a writer and told students about how they too could become writers. She also shared about her favorite authors from when she was a fifth grader. As part of our Grade 5 curriculum, students are learning about biographies, so the children were especially interested in this visit.



Congratulations to the many Peekskill High School students who were inducted into honor societies at this week's induction ceremony! These students were recognized for exhibiting the admirable qualities of character, scholarship, leadership and service. Honor societies represented included: the National Honor Society, the New York State Mathematics Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, the National Social Studies Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society and the Francisco Jimenez Chapter of Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. See more photos from the ceremony [here](#).



The Peekskill Middle School spring concert took place this week and featured impressive performances from our talented students. Of those that performed at the concert, 41 of these students recently took part in the NYS Music Association (NYSSMA) festival. This year, Peekskill had more students participate in NYSSMA than any other school in our area! You can see more photos from the PKMS spring concert [here](#).

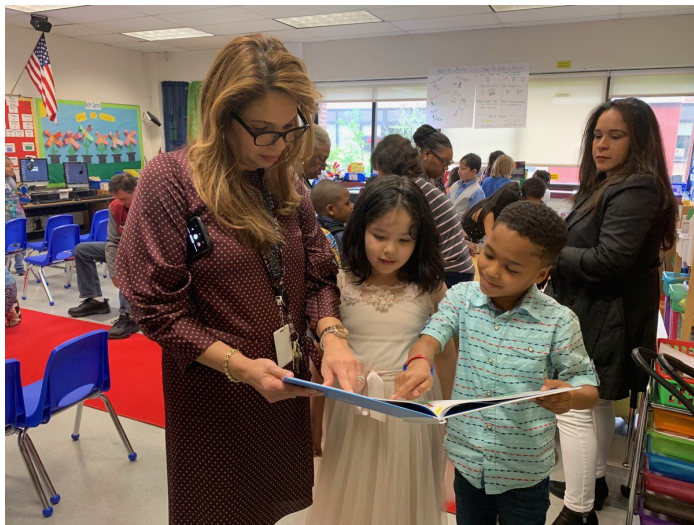


After weeks of planning the design, Peekskill High School students in Ms. Heather Brown's class began painting a large-scale mural this week under the supervision of Hudson Valley MOCA's Teaching Artist in Residence Alice Mizrachi. The project is a collaboration between HV

MOCA and Peekskill students. We thank PCSD Art teachers Mrs. Elizabeth Tabone, Ms. Heather Brown and Ms. Nicole Kossowsky for leading the work on this project. We cannot wait to see the finished product!



At Woodside Elementary School, Ms. Cappuccilli, Ms. Smith and Ms. Lynch classes have collaboratively published their work into a hardcover book! How cool is that? In the photo below, a proud contributing author shares his work with Woodside Principal Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez.



Congratulations to Peekskill High School Drama Club members Kathryn Czerwinski and Hanna Czerwinski, who we nominated for a Metropolitan High School Theatre Award for “Best Duet” for

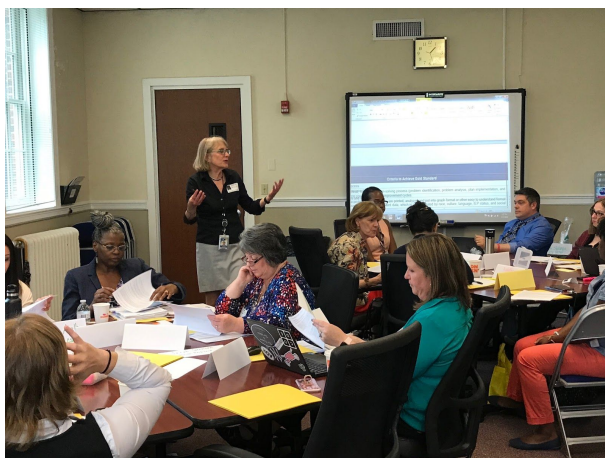
their performance in the school's spring production of, "Grease." The Metros, produced by Nyack's Helen Hayes Youth Theater, honor achievements in participating high-school musicals in Bergen, Rockland, Putnam and Westchester counties. The awards ceremony is June 10 at Concert Hall at the Purchase Performing Arts Center at Purchase College in Purchase, New York.



This week, students celebrated Career Day at Peekskill Middle School! Guest speakers shared the details involved in a variety of trades and professions, while our students had fun imagining themselves in their future careers! Thank you to all of our guests who came out to support the initiative and to PKMS Assistant Principal Dr. June Campalongo for her help coordinating the event.



This week, Peekskill City Schools hosted a State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) meeting that welcomed educational leaders from across the Hudson Valley Region. The group continued to learn from each other as they focused on strategic planning to improve outcomes for all students. The meeting was led by Patti Slobogin, Director of the PNW-BOCES Regional Special Education Technical Assistance and Support Center (RSE-TASC). Peekskill Schools (Oakside and Hillcrest) were selected by NYSED, along with other area school districts and schools including Carmel, North Rockland, and Green Chimneys, to work collaboratively on a school improvement process based on a previous proven record of their ability to improve outcomes for students.



Congratulations to Woodside Elementary teacher Ms. Bridget Holloman, who officially became a Future School Leaders graduate this week!



This week we are sending a big thank you to the Rotary Club of Peekskill for generously donating gym equipment and playground supplies for our Uriah Hill Pre-Kindergarten program! The students began to use the equipment on Friday as the weather permitted them to go outside.



This week, three students from the Peekskill High School Entrepreneurship program attended the NFTE New York Metro Regional Youth Entrepreneur Challenge at Microsoft in Times

Square.

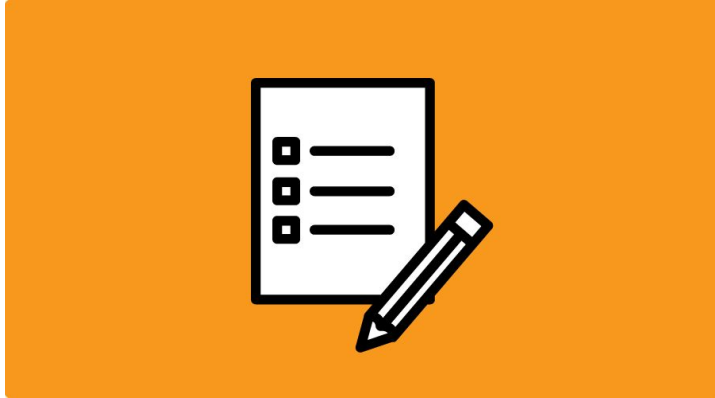
Over 3,000 students participated in this year's program. In the May 14 quarterfinals, Kimberlyn Lopez Herrera, Johan Flores (partner to Jocelyn Ortega), and Asusena Velesaca competed against 70 other students. These students represented 47 businesses from NYC, Westchester, and Fairfield County, Connecticut. Our students presented original product ideas and answered hard-hitting questions from volunteer judges, many of whom represented local NYC businesses.

Kimberlyn's business was one of the nine businesses that advanced to the contest's semi-finals. Out of the final nine businesses, Kimberlyn's business, Eco-Aqua was one of the three selected to go to finals at Chelsea Piers on June 13!

Special thanks to PHS Social Studies Teacher Mr. Ron Johnson for his leadership and for chaperoning the students on their trip to NYC.



Our DTSDE Parent Survey is taking place now! We need feedback from our parents about our curriculum, school leadership, engagement, teacher practices and more. Check your email for an invitation and survey link, or [click here to take it now!](#) All responses are strictly confidential! The survey will be open until May 24.



Save the date and join us on May 31 from 6-8 p.m. as we celebrate the new greenhouse at Woodside Elementary School! There will be a ribbon cutting, followed by a garden party.



The Peekskill City School District Budget Vote and School Board Elections will take place this Tuesday, May 21 from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Peekskill Middle School. There are three seats up for election. Michael Simpkins (Incumbent), Maria Pereira (Incumbent) and Jillian Villion (Incumbent) are running. Additional information on our Board Election and 2019-2020 proposed budget can be found [here](#). You can also check out the online version of our budget newsletter [here](#).

Budget Vote & School Board
Election



VOTE!

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Polls Open: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Polling Place: Peekskill
High School



Please make sure that you exercise your right to vote.

Enjoy your weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools