

Superintendent's Communication Brief: May 20 - May 24, 2019

Thank you to all of our community members that took the time out of their day to exercise their right to vote in the 2019 PCSD Budget Vote and School Board Elections! We are pleased to announce that the budget passed with 79% approval!

Peekskill 2019 Budget Vote & School Board Election results are as follow:

Total Number Voting: 445

Proposition #1 - Budget:

Yes: 351 (79%)

No: 94 (21%)

Michael Simpkins - 361 (ELECTED)

Maria Pereira - 365 (ELECTED)

Jillian Villion - 322 (ELECTED)

Write-in Votes: 30



This week, Dr. Mauricio was interviewed on camera by the Journal News for a feature on the City of Peekskill. The video accompanies a written article that will be out shortly. Both pieces focus on the City's recent developments and each will feature many voices from the community. Dr. Mauricio shared about our District's mission and spoke to the Peekskill Promise, which is driving the work behind our District's efforts.



Just in time for prom, our students at Peekskill High School were able to learn more about the dangers of drunk driving thanks to the Westchester County Police Department's simulator that visited PHS. An informational panel and parent meeting followed later in the day to add to our prom safety efforts.



At this week's Board of Education meeting, Dr. Mauricio joined Board members in honoring our Grade 3 Oakside students who recently won the NYS South Eastern Zone (SEZ) Physical Education Award. Peekskill High School students who participated in the Westchester Business Olympics and the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair were also recognized. The evening also included a presentation from Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke, who spoke about how the District is working to improve attendance. PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liason Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores also presented at the meeting. Mrs. Olivier-Flores spoke about our Saturday Academy and Parent Center, noting that we've connected with 70+ community partners and served 2,900+ families since the Academy's launch on Nov. 3!



Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke welcomed students and teachers for the first official Girls Global Alliance meeting at Peekskill High School this week. The group, which focuses on women's empowerment, discussed plans for the upcoming school year.



Peekskill High School students in the Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers program took part in the organization's annual awards breakfast on May 23. At the event, the Peekskill School District was honored for 20 years of membership in the TSTT Program! PHS teacher Mr. Jaime Farez, a graduate of the TSTS program, was also awarded for 10 years of service in education.



Woodside gardeners spent some time in their new greenhouse this week to plant a variety of different colored carrots - the first of many hands-on experiences our students will enjoy in the facility! Don't forget to save the date for our greenhouse ribbon cutting/garden party on May 31 from 6-8 p.m. Thank you to all of our greenhouse sponsors!



Peekskill Middle School students and staff celebrated their love of literacy this week with a spoken word luau! Over 100 students and parents came out to listen as students presented original poems, as well as works from famous writers who had inspired them.



Peekskill High School Valedictorian Akua Yeboah and Salutatorian Ashley Birmingham attended the 54th Carroll F. Johnson Scholarship Achievement Dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown this week. This event is held to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of the top two scholars of a graduating class. There were 170 students invited representing school districts from Westchester, Orange and Dutchess Counties. Our students were accompanied by Superintendent Mauricio, PHS Principal Rodney Arthur and Peekskill Board President Mr. Michael Simpkins. NYS Regent Judith Johnson was also present at the event.

As the Valedictorian of this year's graduating class, Miss Yeboah was one of nineteen students to receive an award of \$4,000.

"We are very proud of both Miss Yeboah and Miss Birmingham, said PHS Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur. "They are model students and have represented Peekskill well throughout their four years."

In addition to this award, Miss Yeboah also received a \$1,000 auxiliary scholarship at the Hudson Valley Hospital luncheon held on May 17.



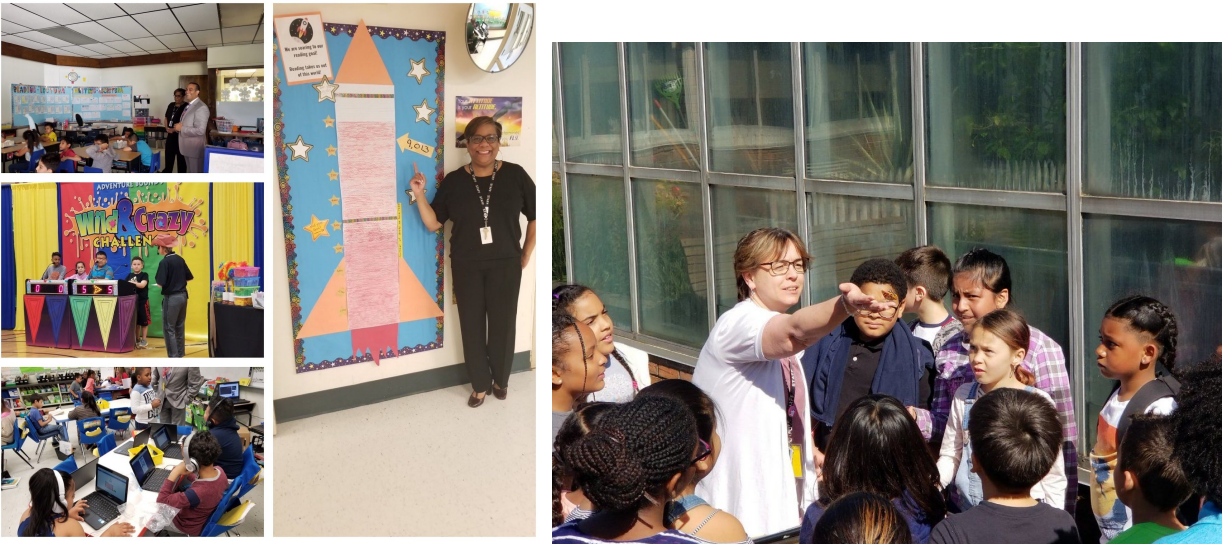
This week, three Peekskill High School students started their engineering internships at the Turner Company in NYC. Special thanks to PHS teachers Ms. Millie Rivera and Mr. Carlo Vidrini for helping our students with the interview process and teaching them how to navigate the train system.



Peekskill High School hosted their annual Science Research Symposium this week. The event featured numerous presentations from program participants and welcomed guest speaker Dr. Austin Guo of NY Medical College. PSR teacher Ms. Hadi was also recognized at the event for her dedicated leadership of the PSR program.



As part of his weekly School Supports visit, Dr. Mauricio was joined by PCSD Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid at Oakside Elementary on Tuesday. Principal Staci Woodley led Dr. Mauricio and Mrs. Reid on a tour of the building, highlighting student accomplishments such as the children’s collaborative efforts to read 10,000 books by the end of the school year. (They are at 9,013 and counting!) The group also had the chance to see the school’s “Wild & Crazy” game show visitors in action as a reward for their reading accomplishments. Other activities witnessed included students engaged in the school’s computer lab and a butterfly release in Ms. Soucy’s class.



Spring concert season continues and our talented students keep amazing us! This week featured performances from Hillcrest and Woodside elementary schools. Special thanks to our music teachers who helped prepare the students for their shows - Ms. Katrina Lester, Ms. Alison Kramer and Mrs. Andrea Moffett.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent for Business Mrs. Robin Zimmerman and Director of Facilities Mr. Carmine Crisci met with architects this week to discuss a project timeline and the scope of work for the District's proposed capital project referendum, which will be voted on by the community in October 2019. This project proposes facility enhancements at each school including a STEM lab at Hillcrest; transforming Torpy field into a multi-use turf field and creating a STEAM Innovation Center at the high school to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. We look forward to sharing more details with the community in the near future.



The scholarships keep coming for our Peekskill High School scholars! Congratulations to PHS senior Miss Mya Guardino, who received a \$4,000 scholarship from the Lower Hudson Valley Diamond Foundation and the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi on Saturday, May 18. Special thanks to PHS Assistant Principals Dr. Ferris, Dr. Daniels and Mrs. Smith-Moore for attending the awards breakfast with Miss Guardino.



Congratulations to Coach Larkin and our Modified Softball team on their 19-14 win against Putnam Valley this week!



Peekskill High School seniors met at the Peekskill riverfront on Thursday evening before heading to prom at Anthony's Pier 9. The students looked lovely and had a fun time dancing the night away! Thank you to all of the family members and staff that joined us at the riverfront to share in this memorable occasion, and to our PHS administrators and staff who helped chaperone the prom.



Dr. Mauricio was interviewed by the film crew of Peekskill's Enormous Creative Agency. The team is working on a video that speaks to the revitalization of Peekskill and includes many voices from throughout the community. The filming took place at Peekskill's historic Paramount Theater. Dr. Mauricio was selected as the District's representative as the school district is a large element of the community. The completed film will be used to help the city apply for New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. If selected to receive the grant, the

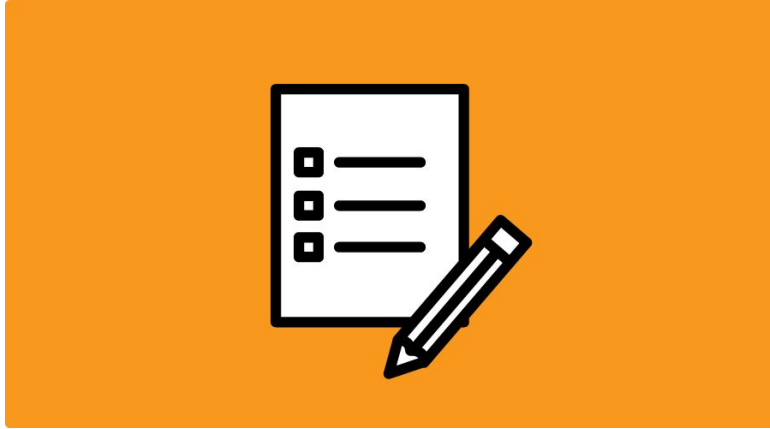
city will be awarded \$10 million to develop a downtown strategic investment plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization.



Please be advised that as noted on this year's approved District calendar, Monday, June 24 and Tuesday, June 25 will now be half days of school due to the fact that we only used three snow days this year. As a reminder, Wednesday, June 26 was previously scheduled as a half day of school.



Our DTSDE Parent Survey is closing soon! 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!



Enjoy your memorial day weekend and remember those who gave of themselves in honor of our country.



Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools