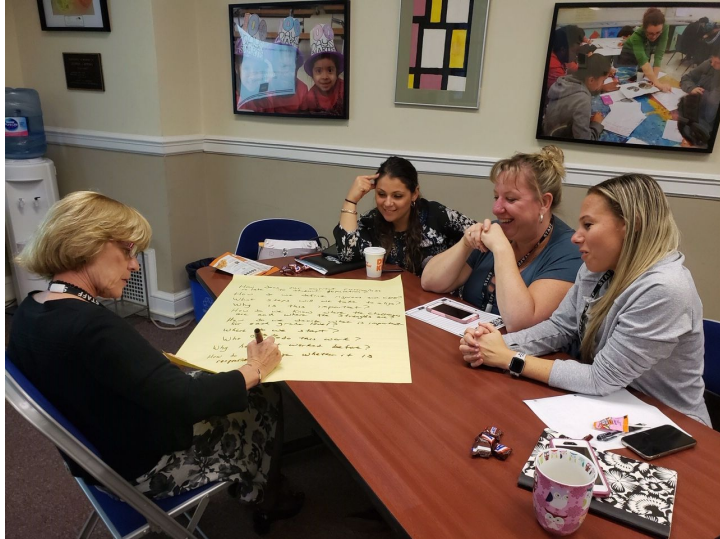


Superintendent's Communication Brief: November 4-November 8, 2019

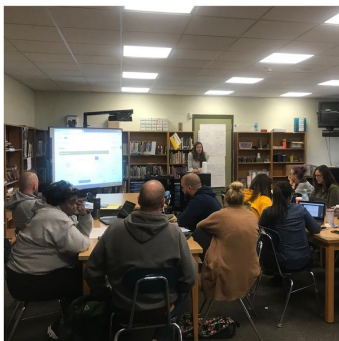
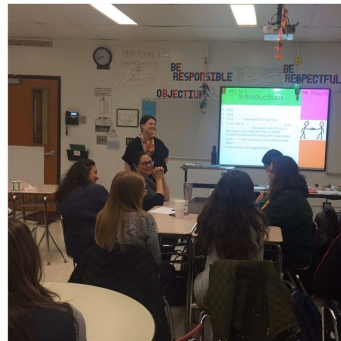
Last Saturday, students from the PKMS Chorus, the PHS Chorus, the PHS City Singers, Hillcrest Strings students and Oakside Strings students all had the opportunity to share the Paramount Theater stage with local violinist Daisy Jopling. Ms. Jopling concluded her performance by making a donation to the Peekskill City School District's music program. We thank Ms. Jopling for offering this incredible opportunity to our students, and for her generous donation to our schools.



Our District's first Pre-K-12 Math Council Meeting was held this week and led by Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin. All grade levels were represented by teacher leaders and school administrators joined as well. Math Council members engaged in using the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to begin defining our collective vision. The council will meet once a month beginning in January to continue aligning our Math curriculum and plan the implementation of the Next Generation Math Standards. Dr. Sobrin also hosted a Pre-K - 12 STEM Council Meeting this week. Educators representing all grade levels used QFT to generate questions that will be addressed as PCSD continues to develop our vision for STEAM education in the future.



On Tuesday, November 5, Peekskill administrators, faculty and staff participated in a day of Professional Development. Groups gathered to participate in workshops and classes at Peekskill CSD, while others attended conferences outside of the District. Topics of focus for the day included Curriculum Best Practices, Literacy, Math, technology trainings, CPR/First Aid for teacher aides and more.



Peekskill CSD would like to thank Peekskill Police Chief Don Hamly for helping to secure a grant from City National Bank and Barnes & Noble which provided over \$5,000 in new books for our Hillcrest Elementary School students! Chief Hamly - thank you for all that you do!



Dr. Mauricio met with Ms. Karen Faulkner of Inner Being Yoga this week to discuss updates on our District's current yoga programs. Currently Ms. Faulkner offers yoga classes for students with special needs through our Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO), on Fridays in our schools during physical education classes and for entire families at our Saturday Academies.



This week, PCSD Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin welcomed visitors from Clarkson University's Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries. President/CEO Dr. Michael Walsh and Director of Environmental Programs Mr. Asher Pacht spent the day with Dr. Sobrin and PCSD leaders to discuss developing partnerships that will benefit our students and staff.



Dr. Mauricio and District leadership met this week to review our new District dashboard system, Tableau. This software will help District staff analyze data as Peekskill CSD continues to work towards the Board of Education's goal of improving data driven decision making. This dashboard will be rolled out shortly.

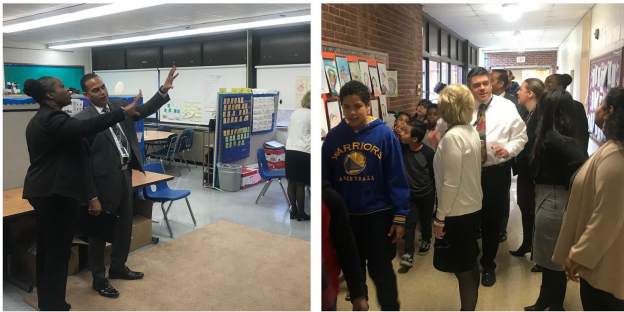


Woodside Technology Teaching Assistant Ms. Jessica Rondon recently participated in a panel on Digital Wellness at the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center's Tech Summit. Ms. Rondon spoke about the importance of educating both families and students (from a very young age) to find balance when using digital devices. Ms. Rondon also recapped her lessons from

Woodside, where she teaches students about being good digital citizens, as well as how to be safe, responsible and respectful behind the screen.



As part of his weekly School Supports visits, Dr. Mauricio was joined by District administrators at Hillcrest Elementary. The leadership team had the opportunity to discuss technology upgrades, visit math classrooms, observe student written work on bulletin boards, visit Dual Language classrooms, and view literacy instruction during the “What I Need” (WIN) period. During the visit, students were seen engaged in real world problem solving and delving deeper into their understanding of mathematical concepts. The group also observed students creating their own websites using Chromebook tablets.



This week, Hillcrest Elementary celebrated Multicultural Night at the school. The evening consisted of food from around the globe, performances from the Peekskill Dance Fusion group, international games, dancing, artifacts and more! Thank you to the families and staff who volunteered to make this night a success, and to Principal Mr. Lichtenwalner and Assistant Principal O'Grady for their efforts in hosting the event.



This week, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Mr. Dan Callahan, Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Peekskill High School Assistant Principal Dr. Jenna Ferris and PHS teacher Ms. Christine Buckman visited the BOCES Tilly Foster Farm program in Brewster, NY. The purpose of the visit was to continue conversations with PNW BOCES, Westchester Community College and Hudson Hospitality group regarding a potential culinary program in Peekskill. The visit included tours of the Tilly Foster kitchen, restaurant area and classrooms. The group discussed work-based experiences for students, as well as the possibility of internships in the fields of hospitality and culinary.



As part of our monthly Commitment to Character theme, during the month of October the District focused on “Safety, Respect and Responsibility.” [Click here to watch a short video](#) to see how Peekskill students embraced these ideas.



This month's Commitment to Character theme is "Gratitude and Kindness," and to recognize this Mrs. Lynch's Grade 2 class had a Kindness/Gratitude celebration! The students presented their kindness writing pieces to their families as they wore their “Be Kind” shirts and bracelets proudly. The children also presented how they are being kind to their community by having a food drive for The Little Orphan Animals Shelter in Peekskill. Additionally, students will create gratitude letters to special individuals in their lives. To continue to spread kindness, students will also be writing "thinking of you" letters to the children of St. Jude's Research Hospital.

"We look forward to sharing how we will continue to spread the seeds of kindness along with being grateful for all we have," said Ms. Lynch "We hope to inspire many others to do the same."

Be sure to talk to your children about being gracious and kind.



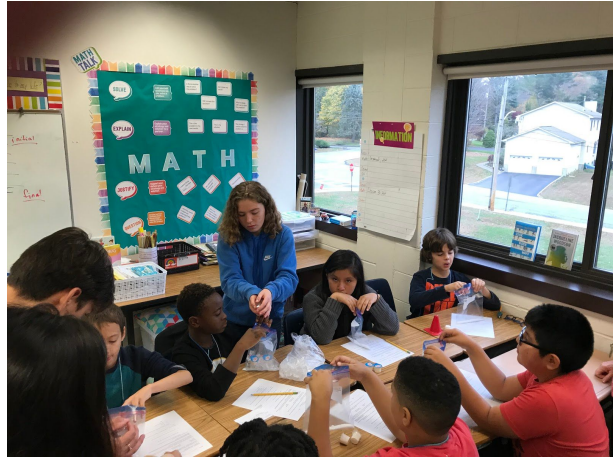
For the third year, local organization New Era Creative Space (NECS) is partnering with the Peekskill Schools to empower young men through our My Brother's Keeper initiative at Peekskill Middle School. This year's sessions kicked off by setting expectations for the group, and discussing what it means to be a leader. Mayor Andre Rainey joined the kick-off to speak with the boys. Mayor Rainey encouraged students to show up for obligations, work hard, and persevere to achieve their dreams. Thank you to Ridvan Foxhall of NECS for making this partnership a continued success!



This week, Director of Multilingual Learner Programs Ms. Madeline Sanchez presented at the Changing Suburbs Institute at Manhattanville College. Ms. Sanchez's presentation entitled, the Superpower of Bilingualism and Sustaining Culture, informed Latinx parents about various topics regarding their children's future.



This week, the PHS National Science Honor Society (SNHS) went to Hillcrest Elementary School to work with Ms. Rossi and Ms. Doino's Grade 5 classes. SNHS students presented a lesson on solids, liquids and gases. The students performed several activities including modeled solids, liquids and gases. Additionally, students measured the temperature of a cup of ice, added salt, and then continued to measure the temperature noting the changes. Using the techniques they learned in this activity, the students made ice cream to enjoy together!



The Peekskill City School District's would like your feedback on our communication efforts. As the parents/guardians of our students, we want to be sure we're communicating our information to you as best as possible. To help us do this, we ask that you take this short, 4 minute survey to help us determine where we are succeeding, and where we can improve. [Click here to take our 2019 Parent Communication Survey](#). This survey is also available in [Spanish](#). Your input is greatly needed and appreciated!

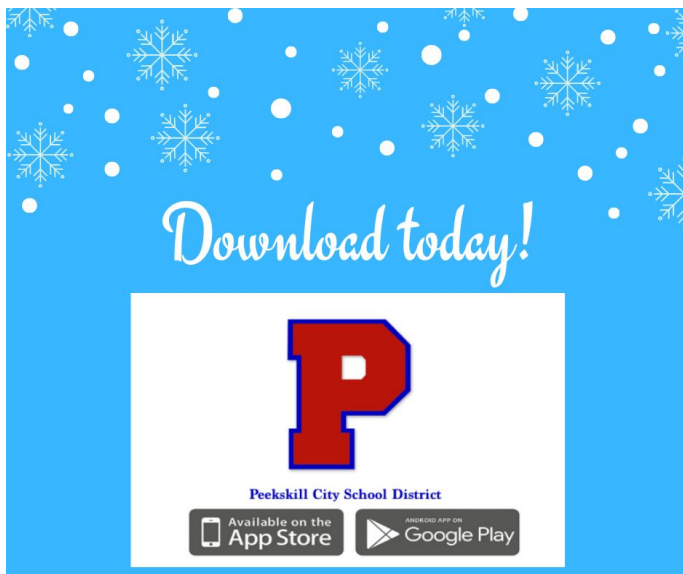


This week, Dr. Mauricio hosted "Conversations with the Superintendent" at the Lisa Roller Parent Center. Thank you to our families, staff members and residents who came out for an

evening of informal conversations. We also thank those who took a few minutes out of their evening to participate in our 2019 Parent Communication Survey while at the event.



With winter weather upon us, we wanted to ensure our families know where to find information regarding our closings and delays. Please see page 9 of our printed calendar for this information and more. In the event of inclement weather, please check our District and school websites, our social media accounts, local news stations and the WHUD Storm Center. You can also download our District mobile app in the iTunes or Google Play store. To adjust your District notification settings, which generate phone calls, texts and emails, please contact 737-3300 ext. 1556. To update your preferred contact information, please call your child's school.



The Peekskill High School Drama Company is excited to present the Paul Sills adaptation of the classic play, 'A Christmas Carol,' by Charles Dickens. [Advance tickets are on sale now here.](#) Actors will be in costume at the November 16 Saturday Academy for a "Meet and Greet" and tickets will be available for purchase at that time. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the door. Shows are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, November 21 at 7PM

Friday, November 22 at 7PM

Saturday, November 23 at 2PM & 7PM

Tickets: \$10/adults and \$8/students and senior citizens

THE
Peekskill High School
Drama Company
PRESENTS...



November 21, 22 & 23, 2019 - PHS Auditorium

TICKETS:
\$10/ADULTS
\$8/STUDENTS & SENIORS

Available Online: <https://phsxmascarol.bpt.me>

The Peekskill Education Foundation will be hosting a Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on Saturday November 16 from 3-6 PM at the Lincoln Depot Museum. Please [visit the PEF website](#) for more information and a ticket link. The proceeds benefit our students!



Peekskill City School District is excited to announce that on Saturday, March 7, Peekskill High School will be hosting the 2020 Rube Goldberg Machine Contest! This year's challenge asks teams to turn off a light. This contest is open to other districts and will have Division I (ages 11-14) and Division II (ages 14-18) categories. Registration closes February 20, 2020.

Register now at: www.rubegoldberg.com

INSPIRING THE PROBLEM SOLVERS OF TOMORROW!

START A TEAM AND REGISTER FOR THE RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINE CONTEST!

DIVISIONS: Division I: Ages 11-14 and Division II: Ages 14-18
WHERE: Peekskill High School, 1072 Elm St., Peekskill, New York
WHEN: Saturday, March 07, 2020
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:.....FEBRUARY 20, 2020

REGISTER NOW AT: www.rubegoldberg.com
facebook.com/rubegoldbergofficial/ twitter.com/rubegoldberg instagram.com/rubegoldberg/

Please remember to take a moment to thank our Veterans for their service to our country as we

recognize Veterans Day this Monday.



Have a great weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools