

Superintendent's Communication Brief: October 7-12, 2019

Thank you to everyone who came out to vote in our Capital Project Referendum on Monday, October 7! We are happy to announce that both propositions have passed!

Proposition #1: 682 votes

Yes: 575 (84%)

No: 107 (16%)

Proposition #2: 662 votes

Yes: 501 (76%)

No: 161 (24%)

We look forward to the exciting work ahead of us, and the opportunities that will come with the projects laid out in each proposition. Peekskill CSD is on the move!



This September, Peekskill City Schools introduced our Commitment to Character monthly themes, and our first theme of the new school year was "Hopes and Dreams." [Watch this video](#) to hear more about our students' aspirations.



Peekskill's sessions of the nationwide "Raising A Reader" program began parent/child workshops at our Lisa Rolleri Parent Resource Center this week. The goal of this six week series is to show parents how to create literacy practices in the home to help ensure that children are ready for Pre-K. Thank you to PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores for sharing the importance of reading, speaking and singing with babies/toddlers.



Peekskill High School's Robotics teacher Mr. Carlo Vidrini and a few of his robotics students visited Hillcrest Elementary School to present to the Grade 5 class this week. The robotics students talked about what they do in class and the competitions they participate in around the country. Our fifth graders are excited to get to high school so that they can take part in the robotics/STEM learning as well!



Congratulations to our own Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores, who was honored by Voces Latinas de Westchester for all she does for our community. Mrs. Olivier Flores was presented with the Hanami Award. She truly is one of a kind and we are grateful to have her on our team!



Our Commitment to Character theme for October is all about Safety, Respect, and Responsibility! Thank you to our friends at The Field Library for once again curating a special collection of reading materials inspired by this theme. Parents and guardians, please speak to your children about this theme at home.



At this week's Board of Education meeting, Peekskill Athletic Director Mr. Austin Goldberg and PCSD Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace presented on the incorporation of Social-Emotional support Coaches in our athletic programs. This is an example of how Peekskill is working to support the Peekskill Promise's whole child initiatives! These SEL Coaches will participate in our football and basketball programs. Also at this week's Board meeting, Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke presented about Peekskill CSD's Attendance Plan and our Attendance Matters campaign. As a reminder, students should not miss more than 9 days in a school year.



As part of our “Commitment to Character” campaign and in observance of the 12th Annual World Day of Bullying Prevention, Central Office administrators joined educators and students across the nation in wearing blue to send a message of kindness. October is Bullying Prevention month, and our students and staff are focusing on ways to help put an end to bullying everywhere.

Also, the puppy in this photo was passing by while this picture was being taken - her name is Charlotte. She was recently adopted by a Peekskill alumni after this photo was taken. ❤️



This week, our Boys Varsity Soccer Team volunteered their time to help with Feeding Westchester’s Mobile Food Pantry distribution. Just another way our students are giving back to our community. Many hands make light work! Congratulations to the team for winning their homecoming game this weekend, along with our girls soccer and volleyball teams! Go Red Devils!

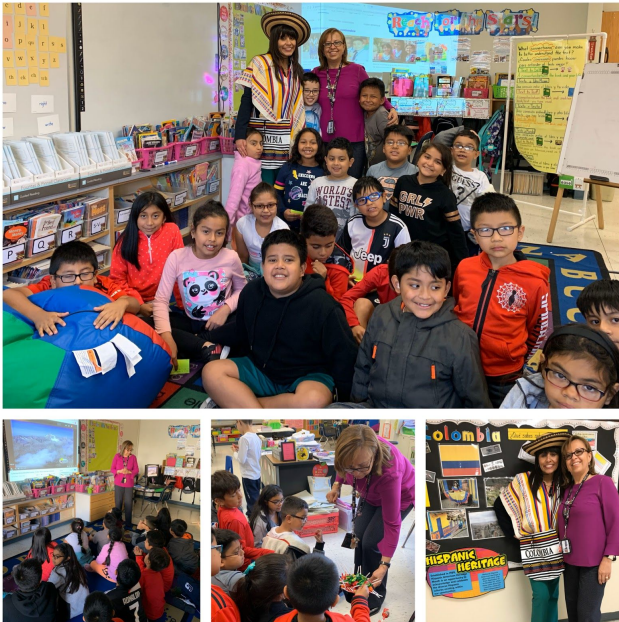


Parents and teachers, please keep an eye out for these boxes at our schools. The PTO is collecting candy donations for their upcoming Trunk-or-Treat event, which will take place at our next Saturday Academy on October 26. Trunk hosts and volunteers are needed. You can [sign up to host a trunk here](#). The PTO's October news bulletin is also available to view (in English and Spanish) [here](#).



Grade 3 Oakside students in Ms. Nancy Castro's class have recently been studying the country of Colombia. Ms. Castro had the idea to invite Peekskill High School's Mrs. Maria Gordineer, a Colombian native, to the elementary classroom to share her first hand experiences and knowledge of the country with the children. This week, Mrs. Gordineer stopped by Ms. Castro's class to give a presentation, tell stories and even share some traditional Colombian lollipops and coconut candy with the third graders. Mrs. Gordineer also brought some traditional

Colombian clothing for Ms. Castro to model for her class. The students had a great time with their special guest!



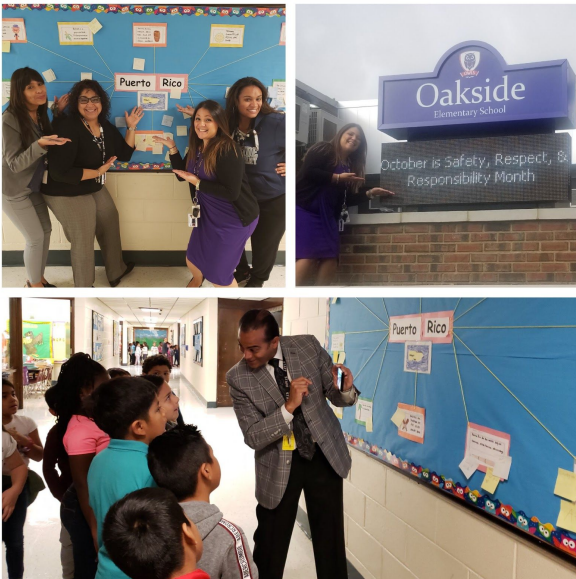
Twenty members of the newly formed Peekskill High School Global Girls Alliance took a trip to Manhattanville College this week to participate in the Westchester International Day of the Girl Conference. The girls left the conference inspired and empowered. Thank you to Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke, Director of Multilingual Learner Programs Ms. Madeline Sanchez and GGA Club leader Ms. Shenea Brown for leading this work. [Read more about the conference here.](#)



As part of his weekly School Supports visit, Dr. Mauricio was joined by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster in a visit to Woodside Elementary this week. Principal Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez led Dr. Mauricio and Dr. Foster on a tour of the school's SEL lighthouse classroom, where Mrs. Cordova's class shared how they use the Zones of Regulation. The class also shared how they made empanadas to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month! Dr. Mauricio, Dr. Foster and Mrs. Aviles-Rodriguez also toured the school's Hispanic Heritage Walk-through Museum. It is an amazing space for learning about Latino history.



Dr. Mauricio also visited Oakside Elementary this week to take part in the school's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. In recognition of the month's theme, every Oakside class researched different Latin countries. Students wrote descriptions and presented their work on bulletin boards around the school. Dr. Mauricio joined students and staff for a gallery walk where Oaksiders viewed the work of their peers and wrote positive feedback for their fellow students. Dr. Mauricio even joined other members of Oakside in celebrating their Puerto Rican and Dominican pride together! Oakside is also doing a great job of embracing this month's Commitment to Character theme, and notes a focus on "Safety, Respect and Responsibility" on their new electronic marquee outside the front of their building.



Congratulations to Peekskill High School senior Alaysia Rosa, who was recently notified that she has won a College Board Opportunity Program scholarship! Miss Rosa will receive the Build scholarship – a \$500 scholarship awarded to students in the class of 2020 who created a college interest list with six or more colleges on the College Board's college planning site, BigFuture™. The College Board will award 100 Build scholarships every month from January through July 2019. Other PHS students are encouraged to enroll in the scholarship program. [Click here to learn more.](#) The program is currently open to the class of 2020 and opens to the class of 2021 in December. Miss Rosa is pictured here with our new guidance counselor Ms. Sheree Gilcrest. Great job, Alaysia!



This year's Peekskill High School spirit week paid tribute to a few of our favorite classic video games. Students and staff did an amazing job embracing the theme! [Click here for a photo album from Spirit Day.](#) Our very own PHS Assistant Principal, Dr. Toro, even transformed into Superman!



Thank you to our Board members, parents, staff, students, alumni and anyone else who came out to cheer on our Red Devil athletes during this weekend's Homecoming festivities! A great job was accomplished by our student-athletes and their coaches. It was obvious that everyone gave it their all, showing great effort, positive attitudes and professional athleticism. Thank you to our PTO for selling food and pride gear, and a big thanks to our new Athletic Director Mr. Austin Goldberg for a job well done! Peekskill Pride all the way! Click on the albums linked below for more photos from Homecoming day.

[Girls Varsity Soccer](#)
[Varsity Football](#)



Attention Peekskill Educators! The deadline for the Peekskill Education Foundation's 2019-2020 grant application is THIS Tuesday, October 15, 2019. This is a great opportunity to enhance your students' learning opportunities. [Apply here!](#)



Reminder PCSD Staff-

**2019-20 School Year
Grant Applications Are
Due on October 15th!!**

Visit us at www.ThePeekskillEducationFoundation.org/Grants
for more information and to **DOWNLOAD** the Application Form

Questions or Comments or to Submit you Application, Email Us at:
grants@thepeekskilleducationfoundation.org

 [Peekskill.Education.Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/Peekskill.Education.Foundation)  [Pskill_Edu_Fnd](https://www.instagram.com/Pskill_Edu_Fnd)  [Pskill_Edu_Fnd](https://twitter.com/Pskill_Edu_Fnd)



This Tuesday, October 15, Peekskill High School will be hosting their annual Financial Aid Night in the PHS Auditorium. Learn everything you need to know about scholarships, grants and loans, as well as how to fill out applications for various funding opportunities.

PEEKSKILL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

PHS AUDITORIUM
1072 ELM ST, PEEKSKILL, NY



FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR STUDENTS

OCTOBER 15TH
6:30 PM

LEARN ABOUT HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE + GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW
- FAFSA
- SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, & LOANS
- IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES
- FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL
(914)737-0201 ext. 3519
www.peekskillcsd.org

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We are less than one week away from the Walk Like MADD event taking place at FDR Park! Join Peekskill CSD and the Peekskill PTO in Yorktown Heights on October 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. [Click here to join our team](#) and walk with Maria Leff, Superintendent Dr. Mauricio, the PTO and others! Thank you once again to PCSD teacher's aide Mrs. Leff for leading this effort for MADD.

WESTCHESTER WALK LIKE MADD

JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
FDR STATE PARK

WALKLIKEMADD.ORG/WESTCHESTER



Save the date! Our next Saturday Academy event is taking place on October 26 from 10AM-1PM at Peekskill Middle School. The day begins with brunch and will feature the PTO's Trunk-or-Treat, the PHS Interact Club's Safe Halloween event, pumpkin painting and more!



*Saturday
Academy*



**October 26, 2019
10AM - 1PM**

**Peekskill Middle School
212 Ringgold Street**



Enjoy the holiday weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools