This week, we celebrated National School Principals Day and we wanted to take a moment to thank our educational leaders at PCSD for their role in shaping the success of our schools and students! Thank you Principal Vargas, Principal Aviles-Rodriguez, Principal Hernandez, Principal Lichtenwalner, Principal Lewis and Principal Arthur for all you do!

This week, we celebrated PCSD Food Service Director/School Lunch Hero Mr. Andrew Weisman and his equally amazing staff. Together, Mr. Weisman and his staff have provided over 50,000 meals to our students since our COVID-19 closure began in mid-March! Thank you all for all you do for our students at Peekskill CSD!
Next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurse Appreciation Week. Show your love for our teachers, nurses, principals, food service and other staff by posting comments, drawings, etc. on social media with the hashtag #PeekskillPride!

Our My Brother’s Keeper mentors have been holding weekly virtual chats with students to help keep the momentum of the program going while schools are closed. Students and staff shared how they have been keeping busy during the school closure and discussed ideas for upcoming MBK virtual activities.

Our staff members from throughout the District have been going above and beyond to show our students just how much they are missed. Peekskill Middle School staff and Hillcrest staff made encouragement collages, while the Peekskill High School shared two special videos made by the English Department and ENL Department.
On Friday, May 1, Superintendent Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Callahan and PHS Principal Arthur hosted a second virtual town hall for seniors to discuss updated plans for the end of the school year. If you missed the live broadcast, you can [rewatch the meeting here](#).

**PCSD FEATURED VIDEO: FOLLOW-UP PHS SENIOR TOWN HALL (MAY 1, 2020)**

Uriah Hill students in Ms. Kelsey Sullivan’s class will soon be getting a surprise in their mailbox - a mini Ms. Sullivan! In a special poem to her class, Ms. Sullivan invites her students to take her mini-me on adventures and keep her close while doing their school work. Children are invited to share photos of their adventures with their teacher. This is just another creative way our teachers are showing they are “there” for our students despite the distance between us right now. Love the idea, Ms. Sullivan - great work!
Shout out to Peekskill Middle School teacher Mr. Bloom who hosted a live virtual ELA game show for his class and personally delivered baked goods to the top 5 winners. One thankful student displayed this handmade sign outside their home, “Thank you! Mr. Bloom and PKMS Rocks!”
On April 23, Peekskill’s My Brother’s Keeper leaders and students joined over 130 people from across NYS to participate in the NYS Education Department’s MBK Fellows Village Meeting. This virtual meeting spoke to both students and the adults who support them regarding student needs and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Dr. Mauricio, and Assistant Superintendents Ms. Zimmerman and Mr. Callahan have been regularly participating in the City of Peekskill’s weekly Zoom meetings to update the Peekskill community on our District’s happenings during our COVID-19 closures. This is just one way our District is partnering with the City to help distribute important information to our stakeholders.

Ms. Madeline Sanchez, Director of Multilingual Programs recently offered a virtual presentation for parents about speaking to children about reading. The event was facilitated in Spanish and will be followed by a presentation for English-speaking parents as well. Thank you to the parents who joined and participated!
May 1 is known as “Decision Day” and Peekskill City School District is excited to begin recognizing our PHS seniors who are taking this milestone step in their educational journey. The PHS Student Council has started an Instagram page to highlight their classmates’ decisions. We'll be posting photos from this page all month long to help celebrate our seniors, but you can also visit @PHSdecisionday2020 to see which students have submitted their plans!

Disclaimer: The @PHSdecisionday Instagram account is being advertised by the School District as a community service to students and parents for information purposes only. This social media account is not an official district account.

The US Census Bureau will soon be sending reminder postcards to households who have not yet completed the 2020 Census. You can respond to the Census online, by mail, or by phone. Most responses take less than ten minutes to complete and all information is confidential. This means everyone should be counted in the Census. It is important that every individual is counted to ensure that Peekskill receives the funding needed for local programs, services and
our schools. If we do not receive an accurate count, the funds will go elsewhere. If you have not already, please respond to the Census today. Find more information on the 2020 Census here on the City of Peekskill website. My family and I were counted...what about you?

As a District, our staff, students and families have lost cherished loved ones. As you finish reading this brief, join me in a virtual moment of reflection to honor the beloved lives which have been recently lost. We conclude this Communication Brief in their memory and with a special recognition of Oakside Security Greeter Mr. Tyrone Cain. We thank him for his service to our students, parents and staff as he always welcomed everyone with a warm smile. We send heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed by many. Rest in Peace, Mr. Cain.
In memoriam,
Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools