

Superintendent's Communication Brief: October 15-19, 2019

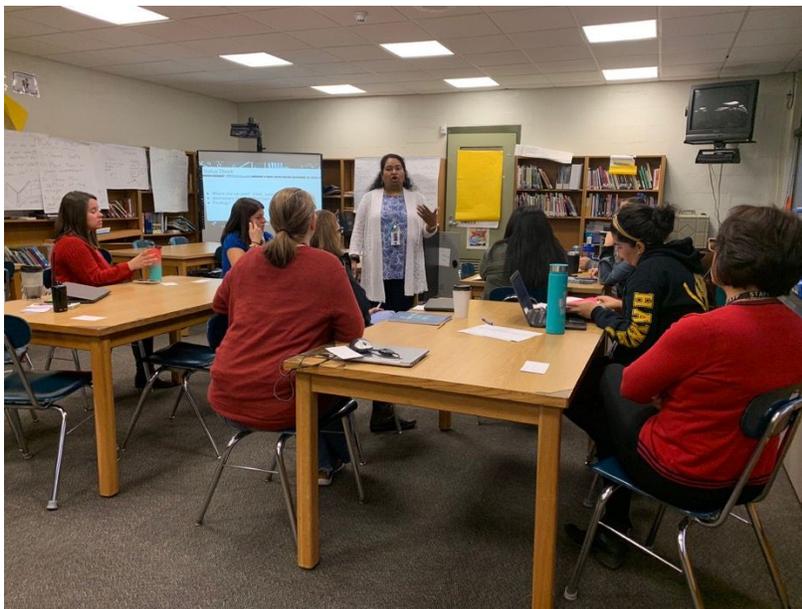
This week, Peekskill High School STEM and Chemistry students welcomed Engineers from Entergy in recognition of Nuclear Science Week. These engineers gave students the opportunity to learn about the methods of production, protection and other uses of nuclear energy. Students asked questions and enjoyed dressing up as nuclear scientists.



As part of his weekly School Support visits, Dr. Mauricio visited Oakside Elementary this week. Assistant Superintendent Dr. May Keenan Foster, Director of Multilingual Language Programs Ms. Madeline Sanchez, Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin and Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace joined Superintendent Mauricio as well. Oakside Acting Principal Mrs. Crystal Hernandez met with the group and together they spoke about the great collaboration existing at the school and the dedication to continue what is great about the school while moving forward in areas of growth. They also visited a classroom where they observed great planning; high rigor questioning and walls filled with student work, positive messages and feedback from students' peers and teachers.



This week, Director of STEM Dr. Anchala Sobrin visited Hillcrest math teachers to explore new resources to support our students. Dr. Sobrin will continue to meet with PCSD math teachers on a weekly basis as the District works on fully implementing Pre-K - Grade 12 curriculum alignment leading to higher levels of learning.



Hillcrest held their Family Literacy Night and BBQ this week! The event featured good food and great fun while students and their families had the chance to celebrate their love of reading. Mr Lichtenwalner and his staff created an authentic campout atmosphere that our students will cherish for a very long time. Thank you to the students, families and staff members that made this an exciting and creative evening!



This week, Dr. Mauricio and Board of Education trustee Mrs. Branwen MacDonald joined local superintendents and board members in Yonkers at a Foundation Aid Roundtable hosted by Senator Shelly Mayer, chair of the Senate Education Committee. Dr. Mauricio joined the conversation on the Foundation Aid formula by requesting equitable funding for Peekskill Schools and by addressing the needs of our District and students. Information from the session will be shared with the PCSD/Peekskill PTO Advocacy Committee so planning can begin for our 2020 advocacy work. It is critical that we collectively advocate for our children!



Oakside's Grade 3 strings students were excited for the school's "Take Home Your Instrument Night!" Congratulations to the newest members of the Peekskill Orchestra and good luck with your newest endeavor!



As a follow up [to this story](#) from last May, Peekskill CSD is excited to announce that Peekskill High School's Kimberlyn Lopez Herrera has advanced to be one of the 12 finalists in the October 16 NFTE New York Metro Regional Youth Entrepreneur Challenge in New York City. Special thanks to PHS' Mrs. Rivera for serving as a chaperone. We wish Miss Lopez Herrera the best of luck moving forward in the contest!



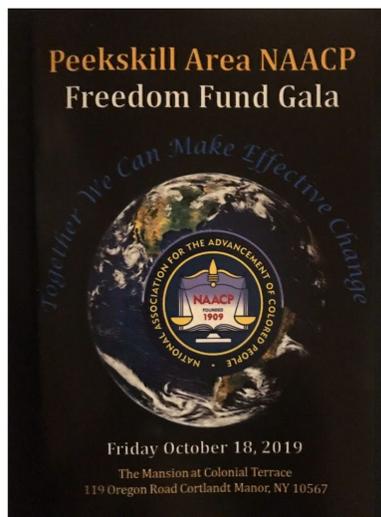
Congratulations to our Varsity Girls Volleyball Team on coming back to make the Gold Bracket at the Pelham Tournament this week! The young ladies showed true sportsmanship and Peekskill Pride!



Students at Hillcrest Elementary culminated Hispanic Heritage Month with a celebration that featured food, music and presentations on Ecuador!



On Friday evening, Dr. Mauricio was honored at the Peekskill NAACP's Annual Freedom Fund Gala where he received the "Ambassador of Education" Award for his work as Superintendent of the Peekskill City School District. He was joined by his wife, sister, Peekskill Board President Mrs. Maria Pereira and Board trustees Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson and Mrs. Branwen McDonald. Dr. Mauricio was elated to see District leaders and staff in attendance to celebrate what he called "an honor for the entire team" and to celebrate the other prestigious honorees.



The Peekskill CSD/Peekskill PTO team participated in the Walk Like MADD event at FDR Park in Yorktown on Saturday morning. The team raised just over their goal of \$1,000 while helping to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk and drugged driving. The event began with one of our Peekskill City Singers singing a lovely version of the national anthem, followed by heartfelt greetings from Dr. Mauricio, who participated in the day's walk in memory of his little brother, Steven, who lost his life at the age of four. Thank you to the staff, parents, teachers and their families who walked with our team. Another big thank you goes out to Peekskill PTO President Mrs. Marisa O'Leary for her help organizing our team and to Peekskill's very own Mrs. Maria Leff for her hard work leading Peekskill CSD's participation in this important event.



Uriah Hill Principal Mrs. Carmen Vargas and members of her staff represented Peekskill CSD at the Annual Early Childhood Professional Development Conference. The group will take the information they gathered at the conference and extend their new knowledge into their classrooms.



The first Special Services Department newsletter is out now...[read it here!](#) Inside you'll learn more about our Commitment to Character monthly themes, our Attendance Matters campaign, PCSD community engagement initiatives and more!



Save the date! Our next Saturday Academy event is taking place THIS Saturday, 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. A kickball game between the NAACP and the Peekskill Police Department has been added to the day's schedule as well! The City of Peekskill's \$10 million dollar Downtown Revitalization Initiative Committee hopes to be there as well to get input from the community on how funds should be allocated (more information to follow). We hope to see you and your family at this fun and educational event.



Saturday Academy



October 26, 2019

10AM - 1PM

Peekskill Middle School

212 Ringgold Street



Finally, this week we will be celebrating School Board Recognition Week and our hard-working, dedicated School Board members. This week is an opportunity to raise awareness and understanding about the crucial role school board members have within a school district. Thank you to our Board members for their service:

Maria Pereira , President
Jillian Villon, Vice President

Trustees: Allen Jenkins, Jr., Pamela Hallman-Johnson, Branwen MacDonald,
Samuel North, Michael Simpkins



Thank you for all that you do for our children,

Dr. Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools