

In Our Schools

Peekskill City School District News

September 2017

Dear Peekskill Community,

I am honored to serve the Peekskill community as Interim Superintendent for the 2017-2018 school year. The new academic year comes with the promise of many exciting opportunities for our students and I am looking forward to continuing our collaborative efforts alongside all District and community stakeholders.

Over the summer, our District and building leaders, School Learning Teams (SLTs), curriculum writers, special educators and clinical staff worked together to design District and school comprehensive plans that will guide our work with students this year. Literacy is central to every plan and encompasses all content areas with high expectations for academic excellence for every student. In addition to this focus on literacy, we are also increasing student learning opportunities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics).

As we continue to extend our reach from our classrooms into the greater Peekskill community, here at PCSD we are sustaining and growing the Community School Model by working with long-standing community partners and inviting new partnerships into all of our schools. With the help of our newly implemented Peekskill Basics initiative, we are reaching out to the parents and caregivers of our youngest children, birth through age three, to offer vital information and educational resources to ensure these future students build a strong foundation in their earliest years. Thanks to our District's recent award of New York State's My Brother's Keeper Grant, we look forward to pairing students at the middle and high school levels with mentors to provide additional academic and emotional support while further strengthening our community ties.

At Peekskill, we are committed to each and every child in the District, and we believe each individual holds within themselves the ability to achieve whatever they dream. As educators, it is our job to assist parents and caregivers in nurturing our children's abilities and dreams. With that responsibility in mind, we promise to teach every child to be a competent and confident learner; but this is not a task that can be done in isolation – we must all work together for the common good of our children's successful futures. I urge you to be an active participant in our District and invite you to get involved by exploring volunteer opportunities at our schools and by coming to our Board of Education meetings, events and workshops.

Finally, please know I welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your ideas for our District. I am happy to meet and discuss these topics upon appointment, or at our upcoming Coffee with the Superintendent event on Oct. 28 at 9AM in the Administration Building.

Thank you for supporting our District as we work to provide academic excellence for every student, every day. I wish you all a wonderful school year.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Keenan Foster
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Children color pictures while parents listen to information about the Peekskill Basics program. (Above)



Peekskill Elementary teacher Anna Budds reads to children at one of this summer's "Read Out and About" events. (Left)

Community Volunteers Share Stories at Summer Read Alouds

As part of the Peekskill Basics' "Read Out and About" initiative, a team of community volunteers spent the summer visiting local venues to engage young children in a variety of educational activities and read alouds.

The Peekskill Basics program, which focuses on the development of children ages zero to three, aims to prepare students for Kindergarten through five principles: Maximize Love, Manage Stress; Talk, Sing, and Point; Count, Group and Compare; Explore through Movement and Play; Read and Discuss Stories.

Peekskill's "Read Out And About" summer activities embraced the fifth Peekskill Basic Principle (Read and Discuss Stories) as volunteers traveled around the city to read to Peekskill children at the Depew Park Pool, at the Hudson Valley Exposition event at Riverfront Green Park, during PCSD's Summer Lunch program and at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church's back to school event.

"It was wonderful to see the delight of the children engaging in beautiful stories and the enthusiasm of the parents for supporting the goals of Peekskill Basics out in the summer air," said Peekskill resident and active member of the Peekskill Basics Steering Committee, Victoria Kravitz, who volunteered her time to the Peekskill Basics program this summer.

In addition to reading to children, volunteers also handed out Peekskill Basics flyers and spoke with parents about the goals of the program. *(continued on page 8)*

Congratulations to Peekskill High School's CLASS OF 2017

On Sunday, June 25, Peekskill High School held its 93rd commencement ceremony as the crimson and blue gowns of Peekskill's 185 graduates filled the Paramount Theater. We congratulate all who received their diplomas and commend our graduates on a job well done!

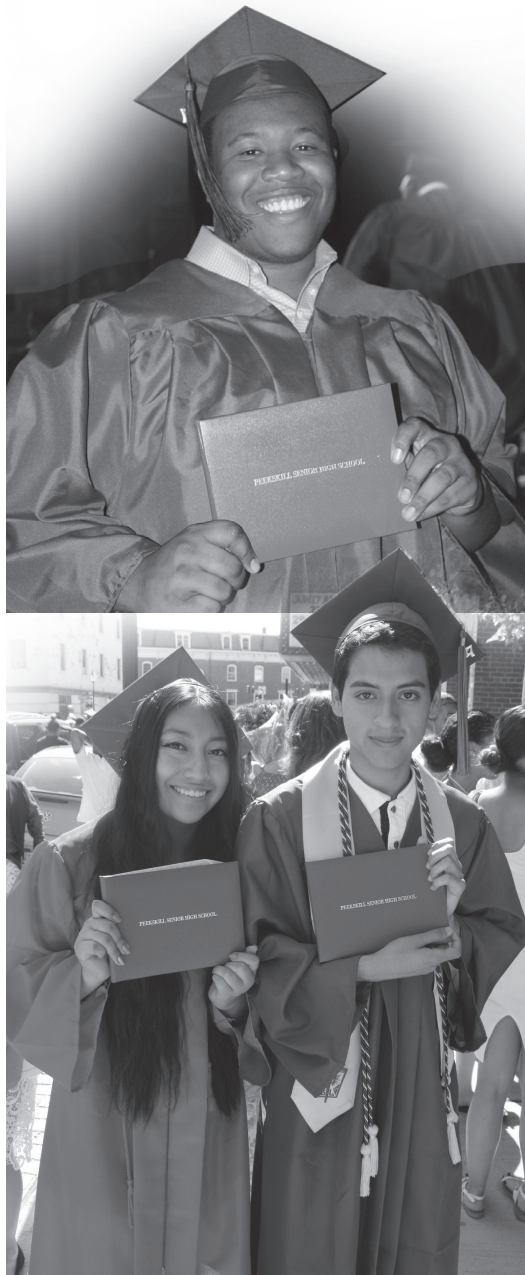
"Although we are all heading down different paths, don't ever forget where we came from. Do not forget your cultural roots, your teachers, your family and the people who have helped you along the way. Stay humble and thank everyone who has helped you reach this point in your life."

– Class of 2017 Valedictorian Brittney Pauta

"I am thankful to Peekskill High School for giving me opportunities which made me appreciate the amount of diversity we have in our schools. I have been shown that we are all so different, yet still have this common ground that brings us all together. It is a true melting pot."

– Class of 2017 Salutatorian Nia Robinson

Leandra Alicea
Carlos Andrade
Oswald Annang
Jada Anthony
Sugery Arita Amaya
Kerin Arita Amaya
Toshonia Bailey Jones
Elexsis Baisley
Shadeja Barker
Nicholas Barnes
Kian Bell
Jerry Best
Prince Boateng
Essence Boyd-Roberts
Leyona Brito
Brianna Brown
Terrance Brown
Cortez Burris
Vincent Camacho
Luis Carrasquillo
Anthony Castro
Mercy Chacha Gallego
Karlos Chamba
Brandon Charles-Leston
Fausto Chillogalli Matailo
Edwin Chuquimarca Deleg
Vina Coachman
Christopher Conklin-Mann
Julio Cruz R Edith Cruz
Brianna Curry
Emily Czerwinski
Joseph Dabbs, Jr.
Sheldon Davis
Shenece Davis
Crishan De León Cardona
Luis De Paz
Jamilá Desir
Joseph D'Souza
Sergio Duarte
Nicholas Dunwoody
Julio Erraez Arias
Orlando Estrada



Erika Farez
Randy Farez
Christopher Fauntleroy-Calderon
RH Elizabeth Fernandez Fermin
Jessica Fields Briana Flores
Glenny Flores Flores
Yaro Gaddy-Waller
Marcus Gaines, Jr.
Carlos Galindo
Ty-resse Gibbs
Ally Gibbs
Marlon Gomez
Daniel Gonzalez
Jessy Gonzalez Cordova
Symone Graham
Georgina Gray
Dayanna Guapisaca Nasqui
Elvis Guerrero
Sandy Guevara
Matthew Guzman Jimenez
Tania Guzman
Marin Keri Harriott
Dominique Haviland
Jake Hayward
Aldaine Heaven, Jr.
Christopher Hernandez
Brian Hernandez
José Hernandez
Matthew Hernandez
Phillip Hester, II
Nyrie Holliman
Arianna Hurtado
Jordan Illescas Pintado
Paulina Inga-Crespo
Kiwaun Irizarry
Ivan Iza
Autumn Jacobs
Mariah James
Victor James
Sade Jefferson Hanson
Carlos Jeton Lazo
Cheyeanne Johnson
Ta'Tyana Johnson
Jayson Joseph
Nestor Lassic Jr.
Henser Lázaro Nova
Birch Lazo-Murphy
Brian Lehning
Sara Lido
Jenny Lojano Chasi
Angelica Lugo
David Macas Ordóñez
Jonathan Maldonado
Prince Marsh
Luis Martinez
John McCrae



Jaznia McCrae
Olivia McIntosh
Jenae McLean
Naieka McTurner
Erika Mendez
Alyssa Mendola
Iman Mickens
Serena Miller
Karla Mogrovejo Quezada
Cristian Molina Clavijo
Jennifer Monge
Carly Moran
Briana Moran
Carlos Nazario
Rahemah Nuri
Mario Otero Garcia
Jahzmine Parker
An-Nisaa Patterson
Ricky Patterson
Brittney Pauta
Jamilette Perez Bermeo
Jasmine Petrocine
Jose Pimentel Pacheco
Madeline Quezada
Milton Quezada
Luis Quezada
Bryan Quezada Vasquez
Jeremy Quinche
Diandra Quinn-Stanger
Joseph Rampersant
Anari Ray
Juan Reyes
Elise Ricciardi
Wendy Rivadeneira

Orellana Aaliyah Rivera
Brenda Rivera
Samantha Robinson
Nia Robinson
Rhondre Robinson
Nikia Robinson Smith
Monica Roca Delgado
Deanna Rodricks
Merlyn Rodriguez Corcino
Kevin Rodriguez Serrano
Steven Rosa
Steven Ruedas
Andy Saiteros Pauta
Wendy Salazar Lemus
Edwin Sapatanga Macao
Maria Saquipay Peralta
Keyshon Sarvis
Josh Von G-clef Satur
Donasha Scott
Shadayia Scott
Alexandra Semple
Alana Serrano
Devon Sherman
Kayla Slaughter
Jalynn Smith
Samantha Smythe
Marquize Smythe
Elisia Solis
Sade St. John Culberson
Ginett Suarez
Donald Taylor
Ryenne Taylor
Andrew Terrell
Kaitlyn Thornton

Mehki Todd
Brandon Torres
Jaylen Travis
Nassaa Turnbow
Samantha Veras
Cindy Villatoro Alfaro
Shonica Wagner
Tiriq Wagner
Sarah Walker
Luke Warmbrand
Malachi Williams
Savion Williams
Kayla Wilson
Dainia Wilson
Aliyah Young
Tamia Young
Nicole Zayas



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Our graduates are off to do great things! These members of the Class of 2017 are beginning the next chapter of their lives as they head to colleges, universities, trade schools and the armed forces. We know they will represent Peekskill well as they venture off to the following schools this September...

American International College
Borough of Manhattan Community College of the CUNY
Boston University
Brooklyn College of the CUNY
Chowan University
City College of New York CUNY
Clarkson University
College of Mount Saint Vincent
CUNY New York City College of Technology
Dean College
Dominican College
Dutchess Community College
Emmanuel College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
Hudson Valley Community College
Hunter College of the CUNY
Iona College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Keiser University - *Flagship Campus, FL
Kingsborough Community College of the CUNY
Lehman College of the CUNY
LIM College (Laboratory Institute of Merchandising)
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
MCPHS - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Medgar Evers College of the CUNY
Mercy College
Molloy College
Monroe College
Monroe Community College
Montclair State University
Mount Ida College
New England College
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Old Dominion University
Orange County Community College
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University

Purchase College State University of New York
Queens College of the CUNY
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Russell Sage College
Sage College of Albany
Savannah College of Art and Design
Shaw University
Siena College
Silliman University
Southern Vermont College
St. John's University - Queens Campus
St. Thomas Aquinas College
State University of New York at Albany
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stony Brook University
SUNY Buffalo State College
SUNY College at Cobleskill
SUNY College at Cortland
SUNY College at Oneonta
SUNY College of Technology at Canton
SUNY Delhi

SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Morrisville State College
SUNY Oswego
Syracuse University
The College of Saint Rose
The College of Westchester
The Culinary Institute of America- NY (Main Campus)
Universal Technical Institute
University at Buffalo The State University of New York
University of Bridgeport
University of Hartford
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Vermont
Utica College
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Virginia Wesleyan College
Westchester Community College
Western Connecticut State University
York College of the CUNY



Our newly hired faculty and staff.
WELCOME TO PEEKSKILL!

Peekskill Middle School Students Explore STEM Fields at IBM's Technology Camp

When it comes to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum, nothing takes the place of hands-on learning, and that is exactly what 14 Peekskill students had the pleasure of partaking in this summer at IBM's Girls and Boys Go Tech Know Camp.

The camp took place at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown, NY, and featured two week-long sessions- one for girls, which ran from July 24-27, and one for boys, which ran from July 31-August 3. Each session featured engaging STEM-related exploration for middle-school aged students, as it has each summer since 2004.

This year, over 75 IBM employees volunteered their time to help inspire future leaders about science, technology, engineering and math. Students explored the activities related to polymers (the study and manipulation of molecules), robotics programming, web design, the sweet science of chocolate (yum!) and a tour of IBM's Research Lab. During their tour of the lab, students had the chance to interact with Watson, the "super computer" that is working on curing cancer through redefined artificial intelligence, speech recognition and cognitive reasoning. (You may remember Watson as the Jeopardy! champion a few years ago.)

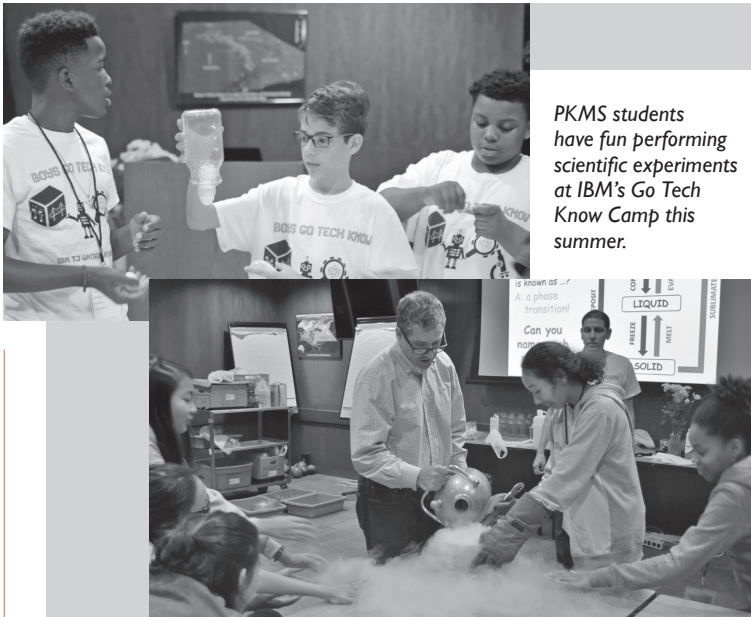
"I'm happy I got to go — and [that] my friends got to go, too," said PKMS student, Jonathan Rossi. "We got to see robots, we met Watson, made ice cream using liquid nitrogen and learned what it's like to be a scientist or engineer."

"My experience was fun and educational," said PKMS student Samantha Johnson. "This was a great experience for all and I can't wait to go back."

IBM's GTS Workforce Management Director Sarena Meyer has been coordinating the camp since its inception and is thrilled that Peekskill Middle School has been such an active participant and champion for the company's efforts over the years.

"We know from first-hand experience that these camps have had a significant impact on getting girls and boys excited about STEM fields," Meyer said. "Most significantly, feedback from the school district has been very positive and resonate the changes they see in their students when they return to school. Most importantly, we see new ideas and passions ignited within the students as they explore possibilities for their own futures they never knew existed."

Peekskill students who participated in the camp this summer came back to school with an enhanced passion for the STEM curriculum, and many responded with rave reviews about the camp experience.



PKMS students have fun performing scientific experiments at IBM's Go Tech Know Camp this summer.

"I am so lucky that I had the chance to attend the IBM program because I got to see a lot of amazing things," said PKMS student Joshua Simpkins. "The fact that I got to be in the same building with some of the smartest people alive blows my mind."

"The IBM camp for girls was an amazing opportunity to better ourselves and our future" said PKMS student Ashley Harvey. "It provided a look inside many science and technological careers that we may have in the future."

Administrators at Peekskill Middle School also praised the camp for providing students with the chance to delve deeper into the exploration of STEM fields.

"IBM's technology camp offered our students the opportunity to explore STEM professions and participate in numerous hands-on activities in an environment that facilitated learning and excitement with experts in the field," said PKMS Assistant Principal Dr. June Campolongo. "It was exciting not only for the students, but for us as administrators to see the interests the camps generated in our children."

Peekskill Middle School students will have many more collaborative learning opportunities in the upcoming year as the District continues to partner with IBM for events such as the Girls in Technology Workshop and by hosting IBM employees for PKMS' Career Day.

<div>2017-2018</div> <div>BOARD OF</div> <div>EDUCATION</div> <div>MEETINGS</div>	Regular Board of Education meetings begin at 6PM. If executive session is called, public session will resume at approximately 7PM. Board of Education meetings are videotaped for broadcast on our educational channel, Channel 77 or FIOS Channel 32.			
	August 28 (Monday) September 5, 2017 September 19, 2017 October 3, 2017 October 24, 2017 November 14, 2017	December 5, 2017 December 19, 2017 January 9, 2018 January 16, 2018 February 6, 2018 February 13, 2018	March 6, 2018 March 20, 2018 April 10, 2018 April 24, 2018 May 1, 2018	May 15, 2018 <i>(Budget Vote & Election 7AM-9PM)</i> June 5, 2018 June 19, 2018 July 3, 2018 *4PM Public Session

Peekskill CSD Celebrates NEW ADMINISTRATORS



At a reception on June 20, Peekskill City School District celebrated the appointment of five new District administrators. Among those being celebrated were the familiar faces of Mrs. Mary Keenan Foster, Mrs. Crystal Hernandez, Mrs. Jackie Liburd and Mrs. Courtney Simon, in addition to the District's newest employees, Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner and Mr. Adam Lodewick.

Mrs. Mary Keenan Foster has been appointed as the District's Interim Superintendent as of July 1, 2017. Foster is leading the District under the guidance of Peekskill's previous Acting Superintendent, Dr. Lorenzo Licopoli, who has accepted the role of Consultant to the Interim Superintendent and Board of Education. Foster will serve Peekskill as an Interim Superintendent until the District finds a permanent Superintendent via a search committee.

"I want to thank the Board of Education and Dr. Licopoli for your confidence in my ability to lead," Foster said at the June 20 Board meeting. "I also would like to thank my team at Central Office for their support and confidence as well, and for being willing to work together as a team. Nothing is done in isolation-we all work together. I want to say that I am 100% committed, for 33 years and counting, to the Peekskill City School District, to the children and to moving us forward. Thank you all very much for the support."

Mrs. Crystal Hernandez, the District's former Music Department Leader, and Mrs. Jackie Liburd, Hillcrest's former Principal, have moved into their new leadership roles and are now serving the District as Elementary Assistant Principals as of July 1, 2017.

Mrs. Courtney Simon, the District's former L.E.A.P Coordinator has taken on the role of Peekskill Middle School's newest Assistant Principal as of July 1, 2017.

"I want to thank the Board of Education for supporting the proposals for additional Assistant Principals," Dr. Licopoli said at the June 20 meeting. "Without your support, this wouldn't have been possible, but this is something I believe will be a huge support in advancing our goals in respect to literacy and providing our educational programs for our kids."

New to the District are Hillcrest Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner and Peekskill Athletic Director Mr. Adam Lodewick. Lichtenwalner comes to Peekskill from the Bedford School District, and Mr. Lodewick joins Peekskill from the Hastings School District.

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Please join the Peekskill City School District in welcoming Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner (or "Mr. L." as he is known by students).



Mr. Lichtenwalner, a former Peekskill resident, is pleased to return and join the distinguished staff of Hillcrest Elementary School as the school's new Principal. He comes to Peekskill from Pound Ridge Elementary School in the Bedford Central School District.

Prior to assuming the principalship at Pound Ridge, he served as principal of Dows Lane Elementary School in the

Irvington School District. He previously worked in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns as Assistant Principal of Washington Irving Elementary, and as the Elementary Staff/Curriculum Developer, working across the district's four elementary school buildings. Mr. Lichtenwalner also worked in New York City as a classroom teacher, an elementary literacy coach and new teacher mentor, as well as working as a Fellow Advisor for the New York City Teaching Fellows Program. He has served as an adjunct instructor at Mercy College, Pace University and Marymount College. Originally from Pennsylvania, Mr. Lichtenwalner is a graduate of Bank Street College of Education, City College, and Marymount Manhattan College.

Please also join us in welcoming Mr. Adam Lodewick, who has joined the Peekskill City School District as our new Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics.



Mr. Lodewick has over fifteen years experience in education and comes to us from Hastings Union Free School District where he spent the last five years as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics. Throughout his career, Mr. Lodewick has held positions such as an elementary teacher, physical education teacher, assistant athletic director and coach.

Mr. Lodewick grew up in Yorktown, NY, is a division one athlete. He received his Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Maryland, his Master's degree in Education from Mercy College and his School District Leader Certification from the College of New Rochelle.

In his spare time, Mr. Lodewick loves spending time with his friends, his wife, their three daughters and their dog.

Peekskill BOE Welcomes New Members, Elects Officers for 2017-2018

Peekskill's newest School Board members, Ms. Branwen MacDonald and Mr. Samuel North, were sworn into office at the Peekskill Board of Education's July 6 reorganization meeting, along with the District's new Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Mary Keenan Foster. Mrs. Aspinall-Kellawon was once again named to the position of Board President, while Mr. Michael Simpkins will take over as the Board's Vice President.



Branwen MacDonald began her involvement with the Peekskill City School District by volunteering on the Citizens' School Budget Committee. Since then, MacDonald has continued to volunteer and advocate within the schools, as well as at the statewide level, for increased and more equitable funding for Peekskill schools. She is a founding member of Peekskill Community for Schools, a group dedicated to strengthening our District through statewide and local advocacy. She brings

her experience in graphic design and marketing to help boost communication efforts within and outside of our schools, and aims to increase opportunities for parent and community involvement at the Peekskill City School District.



Samuel North, a Peekskill resident for 20 years, is a social studies teacher at Ossining High School, where he has taught Regents, college level, and advanced placement U.S. History. Recently, at Ossining, Mr. North and a colleague developed and implemented college level SUNY U.S. History and college level SUNY Social Science and Humanities Research Seminar. Professionally, Mr. North has worked with a colleague from the Ossining English Department in the

creation of several college level elective courses including SUNY Racism, Classism, Sexism; SUNY The Black Experience Through Literature and History; SUNY Latin American and Caribbean Studies; and SUNY Crossing Borders. Thanks to his professional experiences at Ossining, Mr. North has been able to work with members of the Peekskill school community to bring more college level options to Peekskill High School. Mr. North is also an active member of the Peekskill NAACP and a member of Ossining High School's Equity Task Force. He is dedicated to working with all stakeholders to make Peekskill a destination district while also ensuring the students of Peekskill get the high quality education they deserve.



PHS Students Become Teachers as Administrators Learn To Fly Drones

School might have been out for vacation, but that didn't stop a dedicated group of Peekskill High School Robotics students from showing up to their classroom this summer to build and program their own drones.

From June 23 until July 7, students from both PHS' Robotics and Advanced Robotics classes met with PHS Robotics Teacher Mr. Carlo Vidrini from 7:15AM – 1 p.m. every day. The students involved in the summer project completed a STEM Drones curriculum earlier this year, and used the knowledge they gained from their class to construct four drones, two Quad-copters and two hex-copters, completely from scratch.

"The class worked really hard to build these drones. We should all be very proud of these kids- I know I am." — Carlo Vidrini, Peekskill Robotics Instructor

Upon the invitation of Peekskill's Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Mr. Daniel Callahan, on July 7 the Robotics students and Mr. Vidrini showcased their work in front of Peekskill administrators at the District's annual administrative retreat. Students and administrators met in the Peekskill High School field, where both parties took turns flying the machines.

"I have to say, all admin performed pretty well when it came to flying the drones," Vidrini said. "We had a few hiccups, but it was all in good fun. What really amazed me was the look on the students' faces during the activity. The class worked really hard to build these drones. They needed to learn about electronics, soldering, all of the physics of flying and FAA regulations. We should all be very proud of these kids- I know I am."

"I would like to thank our Principal Mr. Arthur, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Callahan and our student's parents for the opportunity given, and for their continued support," Vidrini added.



Look for **Peekskill City School District** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Flickr.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 28, 2017

Coffee with the Superintendent at Administration Building; 9AM

OCTOBER 29, 2017

Special Olympics "Miles for Medals" Walk at Torpy Field; 12PM

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Manadatory Winter Sports Meeting for Parents/Athletes at PHS; 6:30PM

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2017

PHS Drama Production; 7PM Daily/
2PM Matinee Saturday

Peekskill City School District
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Mr. Andrew Weisman, Food Service Director
Mr. Carmine Crisci, Director of Facilities
Ms. Jennifer Sampson, Assistant Supervisor of Transportation
Mr. David Santiago, Director of Security
Mr. Adam Lodewick, Athletic Director
Ms. Laura Belfiore, Communication Specialist
Purpaula Productions, Design and Production

Postal Customer

Free Lunch & MySchoolBucks



We are pleased to inform you that effective for the 2017-2018 school year, every child in the Peekskill City School District will receive a free lunch thanks to a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

All students enrolled at Peekskill City School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school every school day of the 2017-18 school year at no charge to your household. No further action is required of you. Your children will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application. Each month, menus are available to be sent home with the students, or you may check your child's school website.

Breakfast and lunch are offered every school day in all of our school buildings. Students, not willing to participate in our schools' Lunch and Breakfast Programs, may bring a complete lunch from home, including beverages in plastic containers or cans; glass bottles are not permitted.

For students wishing to buy a la carte lunch items, PCSD offers MySchoolBucks, a convenient online meal payment service. For more information on MySchoolBucks, or to add funds to your student's account, you may log onto MySchoolBucks.com or click on the MySchoolBucks link on our school websites.

Community Volunteers Share Stories at Summer Read Alouds *(continued from page 1)*

"I had an amazing time reading and speaking with our families," said volunteer Anna Budds, who also teaches at Peekskill's Uriah Hill School. "Our families are active and they enjoy speaking to their children as they recount stories and connections they had through the read alouds. Events such as these allow our busy families to connect with their children and each other."

The Peekskill City School District plans to continue the "Read Out and About" activities throughout the school year, and volunteers are needed to help plan upcoming fall events. If you are interested in getting involved in this initiative, please contact Peekskill Basics coordinator Bridget Holloman at bholloman@peekskillcsd.org.