

# In Our Schools

Peekskill City School District News

May 2015

Dear Peekskill Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, we are pleased to announce that our lobbying efforts to recover state aid resulted in a 10.5% overall increase for the Peekskill City School District. As you peruse through this newsletter, you will see the impact this aid will have on adding much needed programs and enhancing the quality of our schools. A school budget of \$81,890,784 was adopted by the Board of Education on April 21, 2015, resulting in a budget increase of 2.54% and a tax levy decrease of -2.02%.

In March of this school year, the Board learned that to be consistent with New York State Education Law 3635, a new Transportation Proposition was needed. After careful deliberation and community input, the Board determined that in order to preserve the Princeton Plan, transportation is needed for grades K-5. In accordance with the Education Law which states, "all students are treated equally", transportation will also be provided to K-5 students attending private schools up to 15 miles from Peekskill. The Board also determined that transportation was not needed for students in grades 6 to 12 because nearly 85% of all students in those grades live within a mile of the school. Consequently, all students in grades 6-12, public and private, with the exception of Special Education students, are not eligible for transportation. A transportation proposition of \$1,765,000, which if approved, will increase the overall tax levy to 2.62% which is below the tax cap of 2.67%.

As we close the 2014-2015 school year and our graduates begin pursuing their post high school dreams, we will be sharing their joy as they attend many highly competitive colleges and universities, including Harvard! As many of you know, Dr. David Fine will be your new Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2015. I wish him and the Peekskill school-community the very best as this worthy journey toward excellence is continued. Peekskill is a special and unique community and I am deeply honored to have served as your Superintendent.

In closing, I ask that you thoroughly read the 2015-2016 Educational Plan and Budget and learn about our goals of improving district literacy, and enrichment opportunities for all students. Finally, I urge you to exercise your right to vote at the Annual School Budget Vote and Board Election on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.



Sincerely,

Lorenzo Licopoli, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

## School Board Election

Two three-year seats are up for election: Incumbent Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon and Incumbent Colin Smith. Voters will elect two members to the Peekskill City School District Board of Education.

### All Individuals Must Be Qualified to Vote

A qualified voter is a person who is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

### When and Where to VOTE

The vote on the annual budget and for school board candidates will take place on Tuesday, May 19 from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. To vote you must be registered for either the school elections or general elections. **Voting will take place at Peekskill High School, 1072 Elm Street**

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Board of Education provides for absentee ballots for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the annual budget, and propositions.

Applications for absentee ballots are available in the office of the District Clerk, 1031 Elm Street, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Absentee ballots are available in the office of the District Clerk after May 1, 2015. Absentee ballot applications must be filled out and returned to the District Clerk by mail, or in person, by May 12, 2015. After an absentee ballot application is received by the District Clerk, an absentee ballot is mailed to your home. You are to return the absentee ballot in person to the District Clerk at the Administration Building by May 18, 2015 no later than 4 P.M. or by mail on May 19, 2015 no later than 5 P.M. Call District Clerk Debra McLeod at (914) 737-3300 ext. 342 with any questions.

**Visit Our Website:** Be sure to visit [www.peekskillcsd.org](http://www.peekskillcsd.org) and click on the Budget Tab for more information.

**Contact Us:** You may contact the District with any questions or comments by emailing [budgetideas@peekskillcsd.org](mailto:budgetideas@peekskillcsd.org), or by calling 914-737-3300, ext. 303.

**Proposed 15-16 Budget: \$81,890,784**  
**Transportation Proposition: \$ 1,765,000**

	PROPOSITIONS	AMOUNT	BUDGET % INC.	TAX% LEVY INC/DEC
#1	2015-16 Budget	\$81,890,784	2.54%	-2.02%
#2	Transportation	\$ 1,765,000	2.21%	4.64%
	Total	\$83,655,784	4.75%	2.62%

**2015-2016 BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 19**  
Polls Open 7AM to 9PM at Peekskill High School

# Budget-at-a-glance: 2015-2016 Three Part Budget

	2014-15 BUDGET	2015-16 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ INC	%INC
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>				
1010....BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$7,137	\$7,137	\$0	0.00%
1040....DISTRICT CLERK	\$15,268	\$15,268	\$0	0.00%
1060....DISTRICT MEETING	\$13,328	\$14,474	\$1,146	8.60%
1240....OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENCY	\$370,704	\$392,841	\$22,137	5.97%
1310....BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	\$430,469	\$438,166	\$7,697	1.79%
1320....AUDITING	\$67,830	\$69,186	\$1,356	2.00%
1325....TREASURER	\$60,940	\$63,815	\$2,875	4.72%
1380....FISCAL AGENT FEE	\$25,500	\$25,500	\$0	0.00%
1420....LEGAL	\$336,797	\$445,000	\$108,203	32.13%
1430....PERSONNEL	\$106,367	\$375,691	\$269,324	253.20%
1480....PUBLIC INFORMATION & SERVICES	\$105,445	\$126,760	\$21,315	20.21%
1680....CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	\$46,513	\$47,907	\$1,394	3.00%
1910....UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$344,608	\$346,875	\$2,267	0.66%
1920....SCHOOL ASSOCIATION DUES	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$0	0.00%
1981....BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$285,720	\$307,660	\$21,940	7.68%
1983....BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$2,018	\$2,276	\$258	12.78%
2010....CURRICULUM DEVEL & SUPERVISION	\$848,936	\$618,949	(\$229,988)	-27.09%
2020....SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$1,844,485	\$2,251,603	\$407,118	22.07%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,749,380	\$1,913,897	\$164,517	9.40%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$6,687,975</b>	<b>\$7,489,534</b>	<b>\$801,559</b>	<b>11.99%</b>
<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>				
2070....INSERVICE TRAINING-INSTRUCTION	\$10,838	\$10,838	\$0	0.00%
2110....TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$22,403,505	\$24,277,207	\$1,873,702	8.36%
2250....PROGRAMS-STUDENTS W/ DISABIL	\$13,851,272	\$13,574,363	(\$276,909)	-2.00%
2280....OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$883,347	\$854,880	(\$28,467)	-3.22%
2610....SCHOOL LIBRARY & AUDIOVISUAL	\$366,657	\$486,575	\$119,918	32.71%
2630....COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$1,890,739	\$1,933,517	\$42,778	2.26%
2805....ATTENDANCE-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$21,752	\$21,484	(\$268)	-1.23%
2810....GUIDANCE-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$902,847	\$963,024	\$60,177	6.67%
2815....HEALTH SERVICES-REGULAR SCHOOL	\$599,501	\$601,221	\$1,720	0.29%
2820....PSYCHOLOGICAL SRVC-REG SCHOOL	\$749,477	\$658,295	(\$91,183)	-12.17%
2825....SOCIAL WORK SRVC-REG SCHOOL	\$554,574	\$495,547	(\$59,027)	-10.64%
2830....AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROG.	\$1,421	\$1,425	\$4	0.28%
2850....CO-CURRICULAR ACTIV-REG SCHL	\$138,223	\$138,223	\$0	0.00%
2855....INTERSCHOL ATHLETICS-REG SCHL	\$534,895	\$594,637	\$59,742	11.17%
5510....DISTRICT TRANSPORT	\$233,107	\$240,708	\$7,601	3.26%
5540....CONTRACT TRANSPORT	\$3,138,202	\$2,315,215	(\$822,987)	-26.22%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$15,374,523	\$15,409,537	\$35,014	0.23%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$61,654,880</b>	<b>\$62,576,695</b>	<b>\$921,815</b>	<b>1.50%</b>
<b>CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>				
1620....OPERATION OF PLANT	\$3,171,385	\$3,141,184	(\$30,201)	-0.95%
1621....MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$1,240,469	\$1,267,971	\$27,502	2.22%
1950....ASSESSMENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY	\$45,900	\$45,900	\$0	0.00%
1964....REFUND ON REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.00%
9740....CAPITAL NOTES-OTHER	\$59,760	\$59,760	\$0	0.00%
9901....TRANSFER TO DEBT SERVICE	\$4,780,192	\$4,938,986	\$158,794	3.32%
9950....INTERFUND TRANSFERS CAPITAL FUND	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	0.00%
9950....INTERFUND TRANSFERS SPECIAL AID	\$288,469	\$302,892	\$14,423	5.00%
9099....EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,431,275	\$1,367,862	(\$63,413)	-4.43%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$11,517,450</b>	<b>\$11,824,555</b>	<b>\$307,105</b>	<b>2.67%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$79,860,305</b>	<b>\$81,890,784</b>	<b>\$2,030,479</b>	<b>2.54%</b>

# Peekskill City School District

## Vote May 19, 2015, 7:00am to 9:00pm

### 1. Vote on the Budget Proposition

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education hereby adopts the budget for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$81,890,784; and directs the District Clerk to present the adopted budget as a proposition on the ballot to be presented to the residents of the school district at the annual budget vote and election to be held on May 19, 2015.

### 2. Vote on the Transportation Proposition

- "Shall the Peekskill City School District be authorized to modify its public school transportation eligibility effective at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year to provide transportation for K-1 pupils residing more than 0.5 miles from the school they legally attend up to 15 miles; to provide transportation to grades 2-5 pupils residing more than 1.0 miles from the school they legally attend up to 15 miles; at a cost not to exceed \$1,765,000 and levy the necessary tax therefore?"
- A defeated transportation proposition will impact the elementary grade configuration from two grades per school (Princeton Plan requires transportation) to K-5 community neighborhood schools without transportation. A minimum of \$500,000 will be reprioritized from the passed budget in order to accommodate the transition, thus reducing educational programs highlighted.

### 3. Vote on the Energy Performance Project

What is an Energy Performance Contract? An Energy Performance Contract (EPC) is a program that allows a school district to replace aging, inefficient equipment with state-of-the-art, energy-efficient equipment with little or no capital outlay. Peekskill's annual energy cost savings are guaranteed to be equal to or greater than the cost of the project, and these savings will be applied to the project cost over time, resulting in no cost to taxpayers. We are proposing a \$4.8 million energy performance project for energy saving upgrades. Article 9 of the Energy Law of 1994 states the EPC is not subject to voter approval, just a School Board resolution. However, in full transparency we want to include the general public in this decision. If the voters approve the project we will receive an additional 13% in state aid, totaling over \$650,000. If the Energy Performance project is not approved by voters we are not eligible for this additional aid.

- Shall the Board of Education be authorized to embark upon an energy savings capital project with an energy service company selected by the District, including District-wide: lighting replacements; natural gas conversions for heating system(s); replacement of steam boiler(s); installation of condensing boiler(s); replacement of windows and doors; convert heating from electric to gas; installation of gas fired rooftop units; roof upgrades including insulation and coating; variable frequency drives for air handling units; asbestos abatement associated with said energy conservation measures; and, other appropriate energy conservation measures as authorized by Article 9 of the Energy Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education §155.20, at an estimated cost of \$4,892,707 to be financed pursuant to law in anticipation of the realization of energy cost savings over the term of an energy performance contract resulting in no cost to the School District?

## 2015-2016 Educational Plan and Budget Overview:

### What does the 2015-2016 Include?

#### At the Elementary Level:

- Low K – 1 class sizes
- Developmental Kindergarten Classes
- Transitional Classes
- Elementary String Program
- Expanded Elementary Enrichment and Gifted Program
- Elementary Sustainability and Astronomy Programs
- New Elementary Librarian
- Additional Bilingual Reading Specialists
- Expanded Art Program

#### At the Secondary Level:

- Bilingual Reading Specialists
- Increased Middle School Acceleration
- More High School Electives
- More College Level Courses at High School
- Fine Art Sequence
- Additional Guidance Counselor Support
- District Dance Program

#### District Operations:

- Energy Performance Contract
- Transportation
- K – 5 Transportation Proposition

*\*If Proposition fails, district will need to convert from Princeton Plan back to neighborhood schools*

### \$500,000 CAPITAL UPGRADE

#### 2015-2016 Capital Projects (\$500K)

##### Peekskill High School

- Door and Hardware Placement Interior
- Site work, including, but not limited to:
  - Athletic field and track upgrades
  - Parking Lot Paving
  - Sidewalk Repair/Replacement

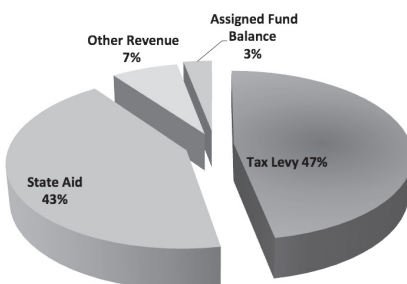
##### Hillcrest Elementary

- Door and Hardware Placement Interior
- Site work, including, but not limited to:
  - Parking Lot Paving
  - Sidewalk Repair/Replacement

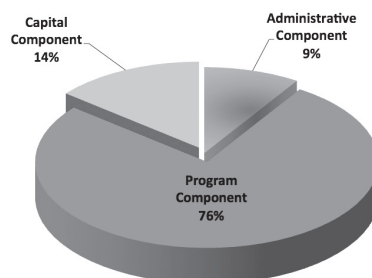
##### Woodside Elementary

- Door and Hardware Placement Interior
- Site work, including, but not limited to:
  - Parking Lot Paving
  - Sidewalk Repair/Replacement

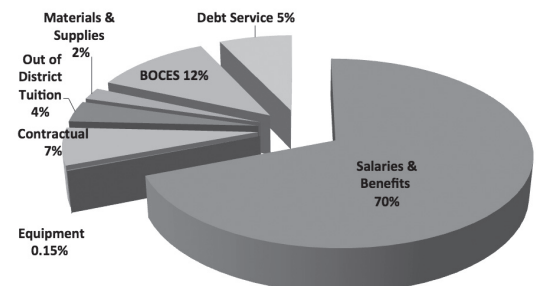
Revenue Projection 2015-16



Three-Part Component Budget



Proposed Budget 2015-16





### Uriah Hill Unveils New Library

Uriah Hill is excited to announce that its new Pre-Kindergarten library is open! The building is also now home to three new state-of-the-art Hatch Early Learning interactive Smartboards which are pre-loaded with Pre-K content and curriculum.



### Newly Formed 'Iron Devils' Off to a Strong Start at Robotics Competitions

Judges watch as Peekskill's Iron Devils present their machine at the 12th Annual Lower Hudson Valley Engineering EXPO. The team came in fourth of 12 competing teams at the EXPO's Regional "Rube Goldberg Competition," which took place on Sunday, March 22 at White Plains High School.



### PCSD's Cami Basso Named "Coach of the Year"

Coach Cami Basso shakes hands with Superintendent Dr. Larry Licopoli as she is honored at a Board of Education meeting after being named "Coach of the Year" by the Westchester/ Rockland/Putnam/Dutchess Coach's Association. Basso was nominated for the award by a group of her peers which included coaches from the Hendrick Hudson, Ossining, Beacon, Lakeland, and Walter Panas high schools.

# Peekskill on the Move: Staying competitive and promoting equity at the 'Peak of Excellence'

## AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL:

### Elementary Enrichment Program

Our new Elementary Enrichment program provides project-based learning experiences for academically talented students in research, science, technology and the arts. There is also a weekly enrichment club experience for all students K-5 which offers participants the opportunity to study topics such as yoga, sign language, French, drama and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). We are extending project-based learning opportunities in our enrichment and intervention programs for all children in 2015-2016.

### Developmental Kindergarten and Transition First and Second Grade

In 2015-2016 PCSD will move to Developmental Kindergarten and Transition Classrooms in Grades 1 and 2, producing literacy rich environments that provide a two-year opportunity for students to succeed academically. In this program, the classroom teacher "loops" with the same cohort of students. Students will learn through play-based and project-based multi-disciplinary units of study. Acceleration will be individualized and movement to the next grade will be fluid. This unique program provides time for students to catch up academically, to keep moving forward each year, and eliminates the traditional retention model.

### Elementary Strings Program

The new Elementary Strings program will introduce violins, cello and bass at Grade 3 in the 2015-2016 school year. Students will be added to the program each year so that a middle school orchestra and a high school orchestra will be realized over time. The students will perform at least annually in a recital or concert.

## AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL:

### Middle School Acceleration

The Middle School Acceleration program will see some modifications in math, science, and art, allowing PKMS students to accelerate and potentially earn high school credit. These opportunities will provide a pathway to a more enriching high school and middle school experience with respect to college level courses, AP courses, and rich encore curriculum. In math, we have extended this opportunity with a two-year sequence in Common Core Algebra I starting in Grade 7. In science, students will be offered a new accelerated enhanced curriculum in grades 6, 7 and 8, with more students being able to take the Earth Science regents at the end of Grade 8.

## 21st Century Electives at Peekskill High School

Peekskill High School will be offering an array of new courses for all students in the areas of science, English, art, music, and dance. New science courses include Environmental Studies and Biological Sciences II. In addition to these new courses, the WCC Astronomy Course will re-surface in 2015-2016 and the Science Department will also bring on two new half-year electives; Nutrition and Zoology. Some of these courses will be offering dual enrollment opportunities with the Westchester Community College ACES program and SUNY Albany. The Art Department will be offering students a sequence of classes beginning with studio art and moving on to Art I, Art II, and Portfolio Development. Two added electives; Printmaking and Sculpture, are also being added to the Art Department's course offerings. In the Music Department, Guitar I Music Theory and Select Chorus, both new courses, will be added to the high school's offerings. Rounding out our new Arts program, PCSD will develop and offer a Dance program in the 2015-2016 school year, complementing the new Theater program that was brought on in 2014-2015.

## STEM Program

Peekskill City School District is in the process of constructing a Grade 6 thru Grade 12 STEM curriculum which will feature units in coding, computer aided design, engineering and more. STEM curriculum educates students using an interdisciplinary and applied approach using four specific disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), integrating them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

## Bilingual Program at PHS

The Peekskill High School ELL program will be adding to its offerings as we meet the needs of our diverse student population. The PHS Bilingual program will consist of two-year sequences, supported by ESL language arts, allowing eligible Spanish dominant students to attend classes taught in both their native language and English. Classes will be offered in the core subjects of math, science, and social studies. This program supports teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) partially in their native language to enhance their understanding of the curriculum and help them succeed in an otherwise English-based environment. Once ELL students are fairly proficient in English, they will continue their education in classes with their English-speaking peers. The long range goal of this program is to enable eligible students to achieve English proficiency and academic mastery of subject matter content and higher order skills, including critical thinking, so as to meet appropriate grade promotion and graduation requirements.

## PHS Junior Firefighters

Peekskill High School is in discussion with the Peekskill Volunteer Fire Department about the potential startup of a Junior Firefighter Program. This program will give young people the chance to learn about local fire, rescue, and emergency medical service response organizations in a safe, controlled, educational, and fun way while also strengthening the relationship between our schools and our community.

## Real Talk

The Peekskill Police Department and Peekskill High School are in discussion to start up a joint venture called, "Real Talk." The collaborative venture, which is set to kick off in May 2015, will continue to build and foster relations between local law enforcement and the Peekskill community, embracing PHS students as catalysts for this initiative. The program will be launched with an introductory session in the school's Health Curriculum. The ultimate goal of the program is to bridge the lines of communication between the parties involved to allow for quicker, more effective problem solving, thus resulting in a safer, caring community for all.



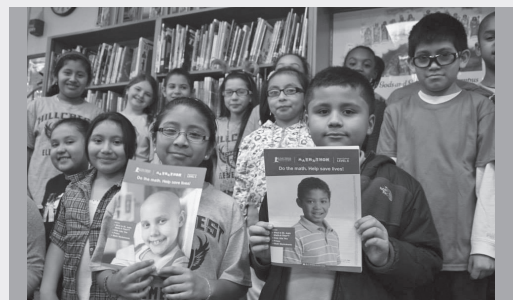
### Hillcrest Holds 1st Instrumental Night

Bravo to all of our Hillcrest students who participated in the school's first Instrumental Night! We look forward to hearing much more from these budding musicians!



### LRD's Take Peekskill to Playoffs

Congratulations to our Lady Red Devils Varsity Basketball Team who put up a commendable fight in the Section I Class A Playoffs. After triumphing over Rye in the first game, our girls fell by a few points (56-49) to Albertus Magnus. We are very proud of their exceptional season and professional sportsmanship.



### Hillcrest Students Raise \$8K for St. Jude's

Students at Hillcrest Elementary recently participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-Thon where they helped raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by completing math work. Students collected donations and raised over \$8,000! Way to go Hillcrest!

# Top of the Class: Meet the Peekskill High School Class of 2014's Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Salutatorian Diana Barreto and Valedictorian Johnna Hayward stand with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Larry Licoploi

Peekskill City School District and Peekskill High School are proud to introduce the Class of 2015's Valedictorian Johnna Hayward and Salutatorian Diana Barreto. These students have truly shown us how hard work, focus and dedication can result in success. As they prepare to venture forth into their college careers, Miss Hayward and Miss Barreto have shared a little bit about

who they are and what their future holds for them after graduation.

## 2015 Valedictorian: Johnna Hayward

Miss Hayward is a dedicated member of many clubs and societies at Peekskill High School and is the President of the Student Council and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. She has a strong passion for dance and often volunteers her time to entertain others through this activity. With hopes to succeed to her highest potential, this fall Miss Hayward will be off to Smeal Business College at Pennsylvania State University where she plans to major in business/marketing.

### PCSD: What is your philosophy as a student?

**Hayward:** I have worked incredibly hard for the last four years and have always known that being successful in high school is the first step towards being successful in the future. My main philosophy as a student is that when given the opportunity you would always be willing to help those around you. It is often said that one learns best by teaching. Through my hard work and dedication I hope to have been a positive role model and an example that striving for greatness is not too large of a task.

### PCSD: What will you miss most about PHS?

**Hayward:** The thing I will miss the most about PHS would have to be all of the memories I have here. I am now at a significant milestone in my life and understand that it is officially time to make new memories but the old ones will definitely never be forgotten. Every person within PHS has affected my life in some way and aided in shaping the person I am today. The effort and motivation of the staff and my peers will never be forgotten and all of these individuals will be greatly missed.

### PCSD: Are there any words of wisdom you would like to pass on to your PHS underclassmen?

**Hayward:** My words of advice to the underclassmen would be, of course, to focus on your grades but most importantly never negatively compare yourself to those around you. All you can do is your best. Do well in your classes, find extracurricular activities that you enjoy, and just have a great time. Everyone is capable of greatness and doing your best in high school is a guaranteed step in the right direction.

## 2015 Salutatorian: Diana Barreto

Miss Barreto is a member of Mu Alpha Theta and the New York State Mathematics Honor Society, as well as the president of PHS' National Honor Society chapter, the Latino Culture Club and the Academic Competition Club. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall and will be majoring in medical/health science or astrobiology with a minor in international relations. In the future, Miss Barreto would like to work for the United Nations, the World Health Organization, NASA, or be a member of the President's cabinet. Another one of her future goals is to give back to PCSD by establishing a scholarship for female students pursuing a career in the STEM fields.

### PCSD: What is your philosophy as a student?

**Barreto:** My philosophy is to not let anyone or anything stop you from reaching your full potential. Do your best in everything you do, and don't be afraid to pursue your interests even if you're the only one that's interested. Plus, there's nothing wrong with procrastination, but make sure that your work gets done well!

### PCSD: What will you miss most about PHS?

**Barreto:** I am going to miss the staff, especially those who go the extra mile just to help their students and those who believe in the power of a good education and push their students to be the best. Most of all, I'm going to miss the person who believed I could achieve anything I wanted from the very first day I walked into PHS- Pete Peterson, our Security Aide.

### PCSD: Are there any words of wisdom you would like to pass on to your PHS underclassmen?

**Barreto:** My advice would be to do what you have to do in order to get where you need to be academic-wise. Go to callback, ask for help, anything. There are plentiful resources everywhere, so there's really no excuse. High school is a stepping stone in your future, so make sure you have that strong foundation. On a different note, high school isn't forever, so don't get caught up in the small stuff which can be a waste of precious time and energy. Just enjoy the four years you have and don't be afraid to have some fun.



## PKMS 'Girls Rock & Living Legacy Awards

Congratulations to those who were recently honored at the 2015 Peekskill Middle School/LEAP Girls Rock & Living Legacy Awards Night which took place at PKMS on March 26. The event was held in recognition of Black History and Women's History months and celebrated PKMS girls and women in the Peekskill community who have made a difference through their contributions. Community Awards were presented in the categories of: Scholarship, Service & Business, and Arts & S.T.E.M. PKMS Girls Who Rock Awards were presented for the following categories: Service, Scholarship, Character and Trailblazer. Congratulations once again to our award recipients!

Left: PKMS 8th grader Theresa Calabrese thanks those who nominated her for the Girls Who Rock Trailblazer Award

# PHS Honor Societies Induct Over 55 New Members

Congratulations to all of our 2015 National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and New York State Mathematics Honor Society inductees!

## National Honor Society

**Senior Inductees:**  
Nicole Ossa-Munoz  
Paul Penalosa

**Junior Inductees:**  
Jamie Acevedo  
Emrigael Alpern  
Lander Arpi  
Rebecca Au  
Burim Boqolli  
Taylor Clare  
Diamante Dimaiio  
Jovanny Elliott  
Vilmarie Feliciano  
Airika Glickert  
Keyana Griffith  
Suliman Hamid  
Nguyen Hoang  
Toluwanimi Jegede  
Andy Lin  
Christian Lobos  
Adrian McCalman  
Kiara Navarro  
Chelsea Ogindo  
Ariel Ortiz  
Oswal Perez  
Alexis Salinas  
Katherine Zambrano

## Mu Alpha Theta

**Senior Inductees:**  
Elwin Cabrera  
Courtney Hill  
Amanda Markley  
Stephany Sanchez

**Junior Inductees:**  
Jamie Acevedo  
Lander Arpi  
Jovanny Elliott  
Kevin Fuentes  
Cristopher Garzon  
Sulaiman Hamid  
Toluwanimi Jegede  
Andy Lin  
Adrian McCalman  
Chelsea Ogindo  
Oswal Perez  
Gabrielle McMillan



## New York State Mathematics Honor Society

**Senior Inductee:**  
Adrianna Lawrence

**Junior Inductees:**  
Jefferson Apuango  
Airika Glickert  
Christian Lobos  
Christopher Monge  
Katherine Zambrano

### Sophomore Inductees:

Karlos Chamba  
Sheldon Davis  
Birch Lazo-Murphy  
Erika Mendez  
Brittney Pauta  
Jose Pimentel  
Wendy Rivadeneira  
Nia Robinson  
Kevin Rodriguez  
Wendy Salazar



## The Great Kapok Tree

Mrs. Vargas' 1st Grade Dual Language class at Woodside Elementary recently treated parents, teachers and classmates to a performance of, "The Great Kapok Tree," or "El Gran Capuquero." The story, which teaches children the importance of protecting nature and wildlife through the perspective of rainforest animals, was told in both English and Spanish by the students who were dressed as the tale's characters.



## Wrestling Returns to Peekskill

The Peekskill City School District's Athletic Department has welcomed back the sport of wrestling to the District after a 20 year absence. Peekskill's newest wrestlers will be coached by Mike Telesco (Varsity Coach), Raoul Ortiz (Modified Coach), Nick Harris (JV Coach) and Jonathon Travis (Intramural Coach).



## PHS Students Participate in City Youth Program

PCSD applauds Peekskill High School students Matthew Adams, Ricardo Archila and Jovan Tucker who recently took part in the City of Peekskill's Bipartisan Youth Mentor Program, which aims to develop civic leadership and critical thinking skills in students interested in learning about governance.

## MySchoolBucks

The Peekskill City School District is pleased to now offer MySchoolBucks, a convenient online meal payment service. Parents, you can now login to **MySchoolBucks.com** to pay for your student's meals, manage meal balances, and see what your student has purchased. Never worry about sending cash or checks with your student to school again! Please visit any of our school websites and click on the MySchoolBucks icon to read our welcome letter with more information about how to register for your account. **Click on the MySchoolBucks logo on any of our websites for more information.**

Para obtener este boletín en español, por favor llame al (914) 737-3300 ext. 303, correo electrónico [azucco@peekskillcsd.org](mailto:azucco@peekskillcsd.org) o pase por el Edificio de Administración del Distrito y una edición en Español le proporcionará.

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



**For more Peekskill District news**, sign up for our monthly eNews by emailing: [eNews@peekskillcsd.org](mailto:eNews@peekskillcsd.org)

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## Congratulations to all of our winter sports coaches and athletes on a great season!

### All-League Winter Athletes:

Indoor Track: Brooke Gordineer and Elijah Travis  
Boys' Swimming: Drew Abatemarco, Devin Guardino, Ivan Fedorov and Thomas Holman  
Boys' Basketball: C J Redd  
Girls' Basketball: Lanay Rodney, Lisana Burnett and Kiarra Dillard  
Bowling: Nikeji Barger and Nicole Burris  
Skiing: Kaitlin Lehning

### All Section Winners:

Lanay Rodney - Girls' Basketball  
Elijah Travis - Indoor Track  
Chelsea Ogindo - Indoor Track  
Nikeji Barger - Bowling

### Winter 2015 Athletes of the Week:

12/1: Jalen Tookes- Boys' Basketball  
12/8: Nikeji Barger- Bowling  
12/15: Elijah Travis- Track  
12/22: Tom Holman- Boys' Swimming  
12/29: Kiarra Dillard- Girls' Basketball  
1/5: Brooke Goordineer- Track  
1/12: Devin Guarino- Boys' Swimming  
1/19: Lisana Burnett- Girl' Basketball  
1/26: Lanay Rodney- Girls' Basketball  
2/2: Drew Abatemarco- Boys' Swimming and Ivan Federov- Boys' Swimming  
2/9: CJ Redd- Boys' Basketball  
2/16: Anthony Murphy- Boys' Basketball  
2/23: Chelsea Ogindo- Indoor Track



*Our 2015 Winter Athletes of the Week pose for a photo during the Sports Awards Dinner held in the PHS cafeteria*

## Peekskill Appoints Next Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education



*Mr. Daniel Callahan will assume the role of Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education on July 1, 2015*

At a Peekskill Board of Education meeting on January 20, Mr. Daniel Callahan was appointed by the Board to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. Callahan will assume this role on July 1, 2015 when Dr. David Fine, the District's current Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, takes over the District's superintendency.

Callahan joined the Peekskill City School District in 2014 as the District's Director of Teaching and Learning, a position in which his responsibilities included leading and directing the implementation of Peekskill's secondary focus on improving student performance, 21st Century Learning, professional development planning and technology integration initiatives for Grades 6-12.

Prior to his time at Peekskill, Callahan served as the Assistant Principal at Hendrick Hudson High School for seven years. During his time with the Hendrick Hudson School District, Mr. Callahan spearheaded many District-wide initiatives in curriculum mapping, STEM education and energy conservation.

"I would just like to thank the Board for this opportunity," Callahan said. "Peekskill has a bold plan and I'm really excited to be a part of it."