



Peekskill City School District
A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day

The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.

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December's Superintendent's E-Corner

"Language is the tool of tools." Lev Vygotsky

Selfless: Those that matter, notice and through our actions thanks are to be had. To date, we have much to be thankful for; ranging from simply having "today" to the opportunities we offer children and our teaching/learning community each day. A couple of weeks ago we honored Peekskill alumni by inducting some elite individuals/teams (i.e. the five fingers, 78'-79' and the team Elton was on, 95'-96' 1st federation championship team) and other amazing student/athletes during our hall of fame dinner. Matt Moore, one of the inductees and past coach, PE teacher, athlete, friend of many, and inspiration to all that know him spoke about his heart. He spoke about the size of his heart. He spoke about how his heart grew. He said his heart grew from giving and not receiving (giving and not receiving). This is all about his selfless service, which led his actions each and every day. Freud talks about the ego; Matt talks about something else. He said this softly, into a microphone, from his wheelchair of about 24-years. These are the people part of that deep reform we have been talking about whereas every stakeholder in an organization is operating at a systemic level, in a self-less manner, with a creative and growth mindset. This past month I have seen first-hand some wonderful systems in place that support our students, their families, and our district.

--Hillcrest: I might as well start with a life-changing action performed by Lynn Riccio last week at Hillcrest. Check out the video (copy/paste or Ctrl + click): <https://ensemble.lhric.org/Watch/Hd23Dqn7>

-- Woodside: The city had a water main break and the staff stepped up with leadership, communication, and "staying the course" with respect to learning/teaching and eating. The staff remained focused on the student needs and kept everything normal in a potentially challenging situation. In the end the city did a great job and got the water pressure back on.

--Uriah Hill: The pre-k program put on a thanksgiving presentation topped off with food and apple pie. The staff and students did a marvelous job. Well done!

--High School: Recently at our Fall sports awards we gave out about fourteen all-league and two all-section awards to our student/athletes. In addition, the Freshmen Academy's honor roll went up 22% this year as compared to last year. Lastly, we have a mentoring program that has taken off with regard to matching adults/students as it relates to academic support; plus our peer mediators that will work with other students on conflict resolution.

--Middle School: An amazing "feast" hosted by the DREAM team consisting of every type of holiday food from A-Z. It was student-centered and as always, a wonderful event. Also, last night the MS hosted our Men's Night,

an evening filled with workshops whereas our students bring their “male adult figure” to listen, learn, and eat. Thank you to Mr. Kane and all staff that make this event possible.

--Oakside: Almost 2,000 books read this first quarter in a new program called, “Super Readers” or Super Power Reading Program. The staff have worked to collaborate and motivate literacy throughout and set goals for their respective classes and school alike. In addition, they had a very successful book fair, which aligned to all their initiatives and work.

--Summit Academy: Project Adventure, Peers supporting Peers, Credits and Goals for Graduation and life. This afternoon they held their first Thanksgiving feast filled with care, student focus, and genuine love. It was a lovely sight as our students smiled, gathered, supported, and worked together on creating, serving, and cleaning. Well done!

--Coat Drive: Nice work Orfa and Leslie on collecting and donating over 400 coats for individuals that need it during the cold season. Thank you to all that gave and supported the cause.

--Thank you PFA and all staff/faculty/community members that came out for the Quiet Man Turkey Run this past Saturday. You would be surprised how hard it is to run a mile with a 12 pound turkey in your hand. All food was donated to those in need during the holiday season.

A few notes (check our websites and our calendar as well):

- Spring Musical for the HS: Hairspray-- Come out and support, enjoy, and love it!
- Fall Production for the MS: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Jr-- Come out and support, enjoy, and love it!
- Our PE department, Lou Panzanaro, Joyce, and Nurses will talk shortly about best approach with respect to supporting our CPR and 1st aid initiatives for our staff.

Enjoy the next few days with your friends and family. We have put good work in; take time to reflect, recharge, grow, smile, and exhale. Have a wonderful break and safe holiday season.

