



"Every Child, Every Day"

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE
May 11, 2017

Acting Superintendent of Schools, Larry Licopoli, Ph.D.

• **17-18 Educational Plan & Budget: VOTE—May 16,2017**

- I have linked the proposed 17-18 Plan & Budget for your review. I ask that you review it in order to learn more about why we are requesting our community to support a proposed budget increase of 3.55% that will carry a tax levy set at 1.02%. The plan calls for increases in building level supervision, K-8, along with improvements in our elementary and middle school STEAM programs. In addition to adding music to our elementary program, we are also adding Spanish sections to our 6th grade. At the high school, we will be adding staff to reduce class sizes as well as add several rigorous elective courses. In terms of Capital Projects, we are proposing replacing the seating, lighting and rug in the high school auditorium. (double click icon)

• **Some Observations----from 13-14 school year to today**

- I am pleased to share with you how impressed I am with the progress you have made since I was last here in 14-15. In the 14-15 school year we launched our comprehensive reorganizational plan calling for a district redesign where teachers and administrators are working in collaboration to bring forward a state of the profession educational program that is responsive to the needs of all of our students. As I have walked around the hallways in our schools, visiting with teachers and administrators, it is apparent to me that we are much stronger today and that we are evolving with current practices in the manner we originally set out to do.
- Observing how our programs have grown with respects to literacy, performing arts, enrichment, more rigorous college level electives and core courses is very exciting and rewarding. The high degree of professional development, teachers working and consulting with teachers, light house classrooms, various teacher leaders honing their skill sets and sharing them with colleagues, are all markers of an excellent school system. Finally, seeing how engaged students are in their learning is the evidence that indicates we are on the right track.
- Yes, of course, we still have a great deal of work to do and improvement to be made, but from what I can see, the district is clearly moving in the right direction. From my lens, we are doing the kind of educational innovation that makes all of our schools true champions for our kids---period.

- **Some District Highlights**

- Open link---Channel 12 News---City Singers: Interview at the Paramount.
 - <http://westchester.news12.com/news/peekskill-group-to-open-for-manhattan-transfer-1.13606362>
- Congratulations and kudos to the cast & crews of our Little Mermaid and Annie. Both performances were extraordinary---really amazing and are a testament to the staff who guided our actors and stage crew to perform so well. Bravo!
- Music Matters and HS Spring Concerts---wow! What a creative way to display the musical ranges of our students, including some original work from our students and other original work with the help of our collaboration with the Aaron Copland House. Our very own, PHS City Singers, will be performing this coming weekend at the Paramount, opening for the Manhattan Transfer.
- Elementary Schools have developed relationships with Arts 10566 and our students hone their musical and performing arts talents.
- District Art programming. I remember first meeting with HVCCA in 2014 discussing with them the feasibility of establishing collaboration with them and our schools. I also remember asking, "What's a Docent?" 3 years later, thanks to our art teachers and Liz Tabone, our art program has clearly grown and as of this writing, I am looking forward to the Young Docent Program this evening at HVCCA.
- The HVCCA and their Artists in Residence are working with our students on all three levels. The PCSD will see some fantastic new murals added to help beautify our buildings.
- The High School Environmental club celebrated Arbor Day last week at the High School. The club planted two new trees on the parade field and further educated the hundreds of supports that attended the event with speeches about Arbor Day and the environment.
- Academically, our elementary students are being recognized for reading challenges that celebrate the combined reading of over 8,000 books in one building, to writing original poetry, and learning to code in STEM classes.
- Academically, our secondary students are being recognized in many areas with the most recent accomplishments coming in Science Research and Robotics.
- High School Senior Brittany Pauta was recognized at two highly competitive science competitions for her innovation.
- The Peekskill Robotics Team, The Iron Devils, swept three 1st place awards at the Rube Goldberg Robotics competition.
- At the middle school, multiple students competed in the national BASF competition, "You be the Chemist" challenge.
- Four Peekskill High School students were selected for the prestigious Turner Construction internship in Manhattan. This is the first time Peekskill students have been selected for such an honor. It is a fantastic opportunity to prepare our students for the 21st Century.
- Our bilingual program is a cohesive dual language program, Varios Idiomas Un Corazón/ Many languages One Heart, K-5 with a clear bilingual vision.
- Hillcrest Community School partnerships included supporting families with Westchester Food Bank services, Healthcare, and enrichment opportunities for our students.

- Upcoming Events----see next page

Peekskill Monthly Highlights: **May 2017**

Date(s) and Time(s)	Name of Activity/Program	Location
5/1: 7:00pm	PTO BOE Candidate Forum,	Ford Auditorium
5/1-12	AP Exams	
5/1-5	National Teachers Appreciation Week	
5/2: 7pm	BOE Meeting	Admin. Bldg
5/2-4	NYS Grades 3-8 Math Exams	
5/3: 6:30 pm	Coffee with the Superintendent make-up day	Admin. Bldg.
5/4: 8:30am-5pm	PHS Interact Club Blood Drive	PHS
5/4: 6:30Pm	PHS Spring Concert	PHS
5/5:7pm	PKMS Musical Production	PKMS
5/6: 7pm	PKMS Musical Production	PKMS
5/6: 7:30am	SAT I and II Test	PHS
5/7-12	National Nurses Week	
5/8-19	NYSESLAT listening, Reading, Writing Test	
5/9	LEAP End-of-Year Trip (No LEAP)	NYC Broadway Musical "On Your Feet"
5/10: 9:30am	Uriah Hill Pre-K Spring Sing-A- Long (Part I)	Uriah Hill
5/11: 1pm	Uriah Hill Pre-K Spring Sing-A- Long (Part II)	Uriah Hill
5/11: 6:30pm	<i>Jazz Café</i>	PHS
5/12: 8:00pm	The Manhattan Transfer/The Peekskill City Singers	Paramount Center for the Arts
5/15: 7pm	PHS Intro to Drama Evening Performance	PHS
5/16: 7am-9pm	BOE Annual School Budget Vote/ meeting	PHS
5/16: 9:00am	Oakside Grade 2 Spring Concert	Oakside
5/16: 7pm	Hillcrest Spring Concert	PHS
5/17: 9:00am	Oakside Grade 3 Spring Concert	Oakside
5/17: 7pm	Science National Honor Society Induction	PHS
5/18: 7pm	PKMS Spring Concert	PKMS
5/19	PLA Day–Early Dismissal PreK-12	PKMS
5/20: 10am-2pm	Woodside Family Fun Day	Woodside
5/22: 9:30am	Kindergarten Spring Sing-A- Long (Part I)	Woodside
5/22: 7pm	Advance Drama Evening Performance	PHS
5/23: 9:30am	Kindergarten Spring Sing-A- Long (Part II)	Woodside
5/23: 6:30pm	SEPTO Mtg.	PHS Library
5/24: 6:30pm	PTO General Meeting	PHS
5/24-6/2	Grades 4 & 8 Science Performance Test	
5/24: 9:30am	1 st Grade Spring Sing-A- Long (Part I)	Woodside
5/24: 6:30pm	"Oldskool vs. Newskool" Dance Showcase	PHS Auditorium
5/25: 9:30am	1 st Grade Spring Sing-A- Long (Part II)	Woodside
5/25: 7pm	PHS Advance Science Research Symposium	PHS
5/25: 3:30pm	LEAP Celebration	PKMS
5/29	Memorial Day – Buildings Closed	
5/30: 1:30pm	Pre-K Parent Workshop	Uriah Hill
5/30: 6:30pm	Kindergarten Orientation	Woodside
5/30: 6:30pm	SVET Concert, our City Singers/Elem Orchestra	Paramount Center for the Arts
*5/31: 7pm	District Dance Showcase (Grades 6-12)	PKMS??