

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee/Building Report Form

Submission Date: 2/05/2017

Month & Year: February 2017

Committee/Building: Peekskill High School

Items Requiring a Vote:

N/A

Items Requiring Discussion:

- None

Items for Information Only:

- Mrs. Sharon Courtney, Chairperson of the Social Studies Department, is teaching a new course titled ***Classism, Racism and Sexism***. One of the goals of this class is to bring about awareness and inform students of critical issues that fall within these areas. As students become more informed, they find their voices and take steps to address the ills in today's society. In some cases, they are able to reflect, analyze and challenge their daily practices and that of their family members and friends. As a result, some students find themselves adopting a new outward look by changing their way of thinking and habits. Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez is a student who has found great value in the course material and has written a BLOG documenting her thoughts and experiences on the topic of racism. Attached is a link to her BLOG, and several people have responded including a Dutchess County Legislator. Elizabeth's work is personal and striking in many ways. Here is a link to Elizabeth's piece: [Elizabeth Fernandez Word Press Link](#)
- Our fabulous City Singers have been invited to the Paramount Theater to be the opening act for *The Manhattan Transfer* as they celebrate their 45th anniversary on **Friday, May 12th** at 8 p.m. This is an amazing honor and we should be tremendously proud of our students as they continue to soar to higher heights.
- On **Saturday, February 4** our amazing students' art work was on displayed at the *Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art* alongside accomplished artists like Faith Ringgold, author of *Tar Beach*. This is a great recognition of our students' work. In future years, they will be able to reflect on, and know the significance of, this acknowledgment.
- On **Saturday, February 4** our very own Miss. Brittney Pauta won third place, in her category, at the *JSHS Science Research Competition*. This makes Brittney the first student to ever win from Peekskill High School at the Science Fairs. We are so happy and motivated to win more at the WESEF competition, which will be held on **March 4th**.
- Mr. Carlo Vidrini, Robotics Teacher, continues to amaze me with his *passion, dedication and services* to our students!!! Carlo volunteers his time and resources to our students on the weekends (*Saturday and Sundays*) and his efforts are greatly appreciated by our students..

- The Peekskill High School Robotics Team 4243 Iron Red Devils brought home their first trophy after competing in an FTC robotic competition at Riverside High School in Yonkers.
- On **Sunday, February 5** the Peekskill High School Robotics Team 4243 will compete in the FTC Robotics Championship Competition at PACE University. They will compete against the 30 best teams from Albany, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey.
- In **April 2017**, the Iron Devils will compete in the Rube Goldberg Competition at the Engineering Expo at White Plains High School. In 2016, the Iron Devils took second place in this competition. When we win it this year, we will be one of seventeen teams from around the country to be invited to participate in the national competition in Ohio.
- On **Saturday, February 4** Dr. Margie Daniels and Officer Andre Wright participated in a panel discussion regarding issues related to substance abuse and addiction. The event was co-sponsored by the Peekskill Youth Bureau and the Peekskill branch chapter of the NAACP.
- Special thanks to the teachers in the World Language Department for participating in the National Foreign Language Week, which will be the first week in March. This occasion will be marked with a number of activities, including decorating our hallways with flags and streamers. In addition, we will post students' posters throughout the school. We will start displaying decorations on **Tuesday, February 28**. If you are interested in assisting, please see any of the teachers in the World Language Department.
- On **Friday, February 3rd** our amazing students received encouraging advice from members of the Westchester Panhellenic, which is a community-based organization comprised of nine historically black fraternities and sororities. This organization is responsible for providing thousands of students with scholarship awards and for participating in various community-based initiatives. Special thanks to Dr. Daniels and Mrs. Moore for coordinating the event.

Important Dates:

- **February 6th** – School trip to the Paramount Theater to view presentation on MLK – I Have a Dream. The entire school will participate. We will depart PHS at 9 a.m. and the show will be from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please know that Dr. Daniels is working with Nurse Rita to put together a mobility list of students and staff who will be transported. Additional details to follow.
- **February 6th** – PBIS meeting at 2:00 in the CRC
- **February 7th** – Rtl meeting at 8:30 in the CRC
- **February 8th** – Peekskill City School District's Annual Art Show (6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Peekskill Coffee House located at 101 South Division Street)
- **February 8th** – Department Chair meeting at 8:53 in the CRC
- **February 9th** – College Board meeting at 12:30 in the CRC
- **February 10th** – TRICA meeting at 7:40 in the CRC
- **February 11th** – Environmental Club – Croton Point Park Teatown's Eagle Fest
- **February 11th** - The Peekskill Basics General Meeting in the Administration Building, BOE Room from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **February 15th** – General PTO Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- **February 20th to February 24th** - Winter Recess

Submitted by: Rodney Arthur, Principal