

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee/Building Report Form

Submission Date: June 20, 2016

Month & Year: June 2016

Committee/Building: Hillcrest Elementary School

Items Requiring a Vote: N/A

Items Requiring Discussion: N/A

Items for Information Only:

The school year ended with a flurry of activities that engaged both students and their families. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the PTO for organizing, mobilizing, and affecting so many students in a positive way.

On June 9th we had our final BOCES Assembly for the year. This was the culminating presentation in a yearlong series for our 4th and 5th graders. The Weather Assembly introduced the concepts and tools necessary to understand the weather. Our students had an opportunity to understand the weather forecast, to use simple predicting devices, how the water cycle works, and different cloud types.

Our students who participated in the ARTS10566 program through our Hillcrest Community School Initiative also showcased their talents on stage at the Ford Theater on June 6th as well as at the Paramount Theater on June 9th. This year, students of Arts 10566 explored the idea of what, where, and who is home through a variety of arts based activities. These activities were then drawn upon to create the final performance, "Home", a short play using the words of the children interspersed with music and dance. After the performance, students were able to go to see the exhibition of their art work at Steel Imaginations Gallery, owned by Wilfredo Morel, the visionary behind ARTS10566.

Awards Assemblies for our high achieving academic students took place on Monday, June 13th and there was standing room only at both assemblies. Top students in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies were recognized as well as in Art, Music, PE and Technology.

On June 14th our students went to see Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's production of *As You Like It* on the grounds of the Boscobel Mansion in Garrison. This was a reward for their participation in the ARTS10566 program. Hillcrest students were intellectually engaged in the pre-performance meeting with the actors – asking questions as well as responding to questions posed!

49 students presented their projects at our second annual Science Fair on June 15th. One parent who attended last year said he thought "this year was even better since it seemed that the projects were "owned" by the students, they did the work themselves with assistance and were therefore

able to speak quite eloquently about what they had done and what they learned from the experience”.

“Class Wars” is perhaps the most looked forward to day in our Spirit Week Activities. A day where each homeroom picks a theme for their room and is judged based on participation and creativity.

June 16th and 17th were perfect days for Field Day! The weather was great, spirits were high, and great athleticism was on display! Students and staff enjoyed a day of good-natured ribbing and spirited rivalry. PTO supplied Ice Pops for all students – a nice cooling treat after a hot day of fun!

June 16th was our Meet the Principal Night at Hillcrest. We had over 120 families come out to tour the building, meet and talk with some of our current 5th grade students who led the tours so that they could get the “scoop” on all things Hillcrest. A highlight of the night was the video shown that talked about the goings on at Hillcrest – this project was written, taped, produced and edited by our students!

We will end the year with a bang – starting a new Hillcrest tradition - a Pep Rally on our last day of school to celebrate our 5th graders who are moving on to the Middle School and having our departing 5th grade students leave “Pearls of Wisdom” behind for the upcoming 5th graders!

Once again, the Hillcrest Community School extends its gratitude and thanks to the PTO for their support – financial, physical and emotional – for all of our endeavors this year!

Submitted by: Jacqueline Liburd, Principal