



# What's Right with Spackenkill!

January 27, 2017

Spackenkill Union Free School District

A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Community,

In this issue of *What's Right with Spackenkill!* I see a common theme of respect: Respect for healthy competition, as our computer science and AP computer science classes, along with a parent representative from IBM, are engaged in international competitions. Respect for the importance of geography, as Mr. Farrell looks on so proudly with the two winning students in the competition, but more importantly the respect for students understanding the importance of geography in our curriculum. There are also our Hagan visitors from the Special Olympics talking about respect for people with differences, whether a disability or some other difference. Finally, Ryan Van Ness, a Spackenkill graduate, talks about his experiences in Marine boot camp, and we salute and respect Private Van Ness for his current and future service to our country.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

## Computer Science Students Learn New Skills

Spackenkill High School students in Mrs. Vitek's Programming I class participated in the Bebras Challenge. This challenge is an international competition on computational and logical thinking. *Pictured at top right* are top scorers **Augustus Conte, Erik Adolfsson, Cody Usher, Luke Hannan, and Ryan Lo.**

Mrs. Vitek's AP Computer Science class was introduced to IBM's Master the Mainframe contest by Anthony Giorgio, a Spackenkill parent, IBM employee, and Marist College instructor. **Sneha Kamada, Leah Mozeshtam, Tyler Brooks, Anirudh Bhimavarapu, Matt Zeoli, and Anshuman Swain** (*pictured at bottom right*) participated in the international contest, which promotes computer science and mainframe skills.

Mr. Giorgio presented to the class on what mainframes are, what they do, and how IBM Poughkeepsie is involved. IBM provided pizza to celebrate the students' participation in the contest, and they are awaiting their prize t-shirts!



## Sophomore Trip to CTI

In a story in last week's newsletter about 10th grade students taking a trip to BOCES CTI, we should have credited High School Guidance Counselor Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotter as the trip organizer. A big thank you to Mrs. Chaoussoglou-Rotter for all her hard work!

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## Cookies for Science

This week in Todd teacher Mr. Scanlon's sixth grade Family and Consumer Sciences classes, students learned about the science of baking. The photo at right shows Mr. Scanlon giving a demonstration on the chemistry behind cookie making. Afterward, the students made some chocolate chip cookies themselves, which they ate at lunch or brought home to share!



## Geography Bee Winners



Congratulations to all of the students at Hagan Elementary School who participated in the National Geographic Bee (popularly known as the "Geography Bee"). Pictured with Principal John Farrell is first place winner **Andy Zhu** (wearing medal), a fifth grader, and runner-up **Linus Odom**, who is in fourth grade.

## Alumni Visits to Hagan Teach Respect

During their lunch period on Friday, January 20, Hagan students celebrated No Name Calling Week and continued to learn about the importance of respect through a presentation about the upcoming New York Special Olympics State Winter Games, which will take place February 17 through 19 in Poughkeepsie.



Above left: Spackenkill graduate Ricky Miller visited Hagan Elementary and greeted teacher Jennifer Darcy. Above right: Private Ryan Van Ness spoke to Mrs. Wishrad's fourth grade class.



On Friday, January 20, Mrs. Wishrad's fourth grade class had a very special visitor: Ryan Van Ness, a Spackenkill graduate who had just completed three months of Marine boot camp in Parris Island,

School Social Worker Joanne Shaffer introduced Teresa Gilli, a representative of the New York Special Olympics, who talked about how our words and actions affect others. In attendance was Spackenkill graduate Ricky Miller, who has participated in the Special Olympics games for many years. "We focus on their abilities and we treat them with respect," said Ms. Gilli of the participants in the Special Olympics, who range in age from 8 to 92. The students watched a short film about Ricky Miller's achievements and also heard about the 19th Annual Fishkill Polar Plunge, which will take place on February 25 at Sharpe Reservation.

Please visit the following websites to learn more: [www.specialolympics-ny.org](http://www.specialolympics-ny.org) and [www.polarplungeny.org/fishkill](http://www.polarplungeny.org/fishkill)

South Carolina. Private Van Ness was once a first grade student in Mrs. Wishrad's classroom. He shared stories with the students about his experiences and challenges learning martial arts, running obstacle courses, rising every day at 4 am, and learning to swim wearing a backpack and boots! Mrs. Wishrad pointed out that boot camp also teaches the importance of showing respect for instructors. One student suggested that in the future during his rare free time, Private Van Ness could write to the class to let them know how he is doing. He agreed that would be a great idea and also plans on coming back to visit in three months.

<p><b>Mission:</b></p> <p><b>Inspired by a tradition of excellence and a spirit of continuous improvement, the Spackenkill School District will provide all of our students with the academic and social skills necessary to pursue their goals and become responsible citizens in an interdependent global community.</b></p>	<p>Please email newsletter submissions and ideas to Mary Forsell at <a href="mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org">mary.forsell@sufsdny.org</a></p> <p>Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive">www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive</a></p>	<p><b>Vision:</b></p> <p><b>All Spackenkill graduates will be lifelong learners who are inspired to pursue their dreams and contribute to the global society.</b></p>
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