



What's Right with Spackenkill!

**Spackenkill Union Free
School District**

A tradition of excellence with a
vision for tomorrow

February 17, 2017

Dear Spackenkill Community,

During my time in the district, you will likely hear me use the phrase “community building.” This may sound somewhat vague. What does community building mean? Community building means the spirit and cultural norms that bind a school community together. It’s the energy within the schools, between the schools, and between the schools and the community. In my opinion, you can’t have a great school district without strong relationships with your community partners. Families need to be engaged in their school district. As I look at this week’s issue, we have an advisory group that is meeting to help us formulate our plans for our Capital Project, especially the track and field. Community building is also built on the foundation of success. It’s the celebration of the success of our students, our number one priority. In this issue and many to come, we will continue to celebrate the successes of our students and staff. Whether in Science Olympiad, math competitions, or recognizing a fallen hero, community building is what creates an identity that we refer to as the Spackenkill Union Free School District.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Community Advisory Group Studies Track and Field



Did you know that several members of the district, parents, and other community members have been meeting monthly to provide feedback on the athletic facility needs of the district? The Board of Education is currently reviewing the condition of the high school track and field along with other needed repairs district-wide. Thank you to the following volunteers for their interest and participation in the Community Advisory Group, co-chaired by Marco Lanzoni and Steve Malkischer: **Clinton DeSouza, Dave Downes, David Speranza, Don Neise, Frank Dailey, Herman Lo, Jackie Klein, Jennifer Kaufman, Kelly Libolt, Kristina Mancini, Manny Blanco, Dr. Mark Villanti, Michele Moloney,**

Nichole McSpedon, Richard Horvath, Robert Loughran, Ron Rosen, Stan Garrant, Valerie Barone, Mike Ruppert, Paul Porco, Victor Stern, Ellen Stern, Rob Spero, and Tyrell Bennermon.

We will be providing greater details on the project in the near future, or simply visit our web page, where the scope is described, by clicking here. Future Community Advisory Group meeting dates will be announced on the website, or email Marco Lanzoni at marco.lanzoni@sufsdny.org. Thank you volunteers for stepping up to provide the district with input. We encourage the general public to attend next Tuesday’s BOE meeting (2/21 at 7:30 pm, Todd Middle School), where the Board will receive a special presentation on the high school facilities, including the track and field.

Spackenkill Union Free School District, 15 Croft Road
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District Honors Fallen Officer

At the home Boys Varsity basketball game on February 10, City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer John Falcone, Jr., who lost his life in the line of duty six years ago, was honored as the



Spartan of the Game, a Spackenkill tradition. Spectators wore blue out of respect for the fallen officer. Pictured holding commemorative jerseys (*above, left to right*) are Detective Falcone's sister, Victoria Falcone Fiorisi; nephews Michael and Giuseppe Fiorisi; and the officer's father, Mr. John Falcone. Also pictured are Athletics Director Marco Lanzoni (*second from right*), Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Tom Bell (*third from left*), and Spackenkill parent Kelly Libolt (*far right*), whom we thank for playing a major role in organizing the event.

Achievements in Athletics

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams both finished the regular seasons winning their divisions. The teams play next in the MHAL Championship before they begin Sectional play.

GIRLS MHAL Conference Championship: February 21 @ Ulster CC; 5 pm Red Hook vs. FDR; 7 pm Spackenkill vs. Pine Plains

BOYS MHAL Conference Championship: February 22 @ Ulster CC; 5 pm New Paltz vs. FDR; 7 pm Spackenkill vs. Rhinebeck

MHAL Basketball Finals: February 23 @ Ulster CC; GIRLS at 5 pm and BOYS at 7 pm

Varsity Indoor Track: Kabongo Barry was the MHAL and Section 9 Class B Champion in the 55- and 300-meter dash. The Section IX State Qualifier will be held February 24 at 5 pm at West Point

Science Olympiad Headed to States

Spackenkill High School's Science Olympiad A team came in second place overall (out of 30 teams) at the regional competition on February 4 at SUNY Ulster. The B team placed fifth overall. The teams received nine first place medals combined, and the A team placed in the top six for 21 out of 25 events. Science Olympiad is headed to the state competition at Le Moyne College in Syracuse on March 10 and 11 to compete with the 54 other top teams in the state.



Clockwise from top:

The team gathered at SUNY Ulster;

Andrew Wu and Zach Johnson program a hovercraft;

Tomas Herrera and Nyi-Rein Kyaw operate a robot;

Leona Lau and Eileen Gao demonstrate a tower construction.

Community Turns Out for STA Scholarship Fundraiser

The Applebee's fundraiser was very successful and raised \$756 for the Spackenkill Teachers Association Scholarship fund. Thank you to all who came out and supported our worthy cause. A special thank you to all the teachers and students who helped!

Teachers: **Cathy Robinson, John Latino, Donna O'Sullivan, Lara Bogdan, Jodi Girard, Jen Rubin, Kristin Tiano, Erica Sautter, Elyse Joy, Kate Stout, Kim Scoralick, Leesa Marcinelli, Marianne Turner, Julie Moren, and Carrie Spiegel.**
Students: **Ellie Robinson, Madison Updike, Mia Bogdan, Liam Moren, and Sidney Scoralick.**

Todd MathCounts Team Victorious

The Todd Middle School MathCounts Team placed second out of four teams at the MathCounts chapter competition at Dutchess Community College on February 11. The team advanced to States, which will be held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in March (date TBD). Congratulations to all students and to Coach Puja Shankar and Co-Coach Hong Min.



MathCounts team with coach Puja Shankar: **Aditya Shankar, Alexander Zhu, Eric Sung, Anikha Justin, Ria Bhutani, Shinrea Su, Emily Jea, Emily Ma, Edison Sung, and Jeet Shahani.**

Foreign Language Teachers Visit Hagan



As Hagan fifth graders prepare to enter Todd Middle School in the fall, they are already thinking about whether to take Spanish or French. To help them decide, foreign language teachers Gaetana Webster (*pictured above*) and Mrs. Miriam Zimet-Aaron visited Hagan on February 15 to discuss the language program. Mrs. Webster, who teaches French and Spanish, is shown above introducing the students to both the alphabets through song.

Elementary Valentine Parties Focus on Fun Activities (Instead of Sweets)



On February 14, Nassau and Hagan Elementary schools celebrated Valentine's Day with lots of fun activities and games, such as place the heart sticker on the fox in Mrs. Davis's kindergarten, *above left*. Mrs. Katz guides a third grade class in making crafts, *above right and below right*.



Healthy Spirit Week Gets Nassau Moving



Nassau celebrated Healthy Spirit Week by wearing red to signify healthy hearts and taking a brisk whole school walk through the halls on Tuesday. *Above*: Mrs. Drummond's class pauses for a photo. Other activities this week included a food drive and Thursday's PJ day to highlight the importance of healthy sleep habits. School Social Worker Mrs. Phillips organized the events.

Mission:

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.

Please email newsletter submissions and ideas to Mary Forsell at mary.forsell@sufsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:

www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive

Vision:

All Spackenkill graduates will be lifelong learners who are inspired to pursue their dreams and contribute to the global society.