



What's Right with Spackenkill!

January 13, 2017

Spackenkill Union Free School District

A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Families, Students, and Staff,

There is no school on Monday, January 16 to commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr King once said, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." Those eloquent words bear remembering and most certainly apply to our school district. In this edition we salute a career educator, Ann Gabel, who personifies Dr. King's words. It is also our expectation that Alaina Repetto, who recently received tenure by the Board of Education, will embark on a career as distinguished as that of Ann Gabel. We are grateful for the Lions Club, which supports our high school's chapter of the LEO Club. The community service work of the LEO Club, their advisor, Mr. Hammond, and the Pleasant Valley and LaGrange Lions clubs certainly underscores the importance of intelligence plus character. In addition, our young scholars at Todd are developing their critical thinking skills in mathematical reasoning, and we encourage them to continue their quest to be great math students.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Interim/Acting Superintendent

Special Ed Teacher to Retire

Congratulations to elementary special education teacher **Ann Gabel**, who is retiring after 23 years in the Spackenkill District at Hagan and Nassau schools. Mrs. Gabel looks forward to traveling and spending time with her grandkids. "Ann has always been dedicated to her students, their families, her colleagues, and the Spackenkill community," said Dr. Lori Mulford,



Above: Bulletin board at Hagan Elementary School pays tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Personnel.

"She brought humor and art into her work with students. Ann always had a way to bring a smile to your face and make you laugh. Ann's dedication to and love of children was apparent every day. Evidence of Ann's dedication is that fact that she postponed her retirement so that her students had two transitions of teachers instead of three. She will be greatly missed."

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Tenure for HS Science Teacher



At the January 9 Board meeting, Spackenkill High School teacher **Alaina Repetto** (above, with Principal Steve Malkischer) was awarded an appointment to tenure in the science area, effective January 15. Ms. Repetto teaches Regents Earth Science and Environmental Sustainability, a Project Lead the Way course at Spackenkill. She holds a BS in Earth Science from SUNY Cortland and an MS in Teaching Literacy from Mercy College.

LEO Club Officers Meet with Lions



Left: LEO officers attended a dinner with the Pleasant Valley and LaGrange Lions clubs at the Poughkeepsie Children's Home on January 10. The meeting is an annual update of current national and local trends in child welfare.

Middle School Math Students Excel

We want to commend the 13 problem-solvers from Todd Middle School who participated in the 32nd annual American Mathematics Competition for middle school students (AMC 8) on November 15, 2016. They are:

Taha Ali, Nicholas J. Busaba, Emily Jea, Anikha A. Justin, Soumya Kamada, Emily Ma, Jonathan Raz, Jeet Shahani, Aditya Shankar, Shinrea Su, Edison Sung, Eric Sung, and Anoushka Swain

Special congratulations go out to eighth grader Emily Ma, sixth grader Jeet Shahani, and eighth grader Aditya Shankar for their achievements on this exam and receiving the top three scores at Todd.

Emily Ma, who earned the title of School Winner, received the highest score achieved by a Todd student since we began administering the AMC 8 in 2009. Her exceptional performance places her in the top 1% among students taking this test nationally.

The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple-choice examination organized by the Mathematical Association of America and designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills. Participation in this exam helps middle school students enhance their analytical thinking skills and develop positive attitudes toward mathematics. Students are able to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to unique problem-solving challenges in a comfortable, stress-free environment.

The Todd Middle School Math Club, under the guidance of Mrs. Cindy Nguyen, participates in many challenging math competitions throughout the year. We are proud of all our participants.



Above left to right: Todd Dean of Students Anchala Sobrin, Principal Daniel Doherty, Aditya Shankar, Emily Ma, Jeet Shahani, and Math Club Advisor Cindy Nguyen gather to celebrate AMC commended students.

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

Vision:

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