

Please see community flyers that might be of interest:

[Spackenkill Elementary PTA Barnes & Noble Book Fair](#)

[SPAC Camp League Brochure](#)



***What's Right with  
Spackenkill!  
April 7, 2017***

***A tradition of  
excellence with a  
vision for  
tomorrow***

**Dear Spackenkill Community,**

I want to begin by thanking Principal Doherty for attending the teacher recruitment fair at SUNY Cortland. There was a bevy of colleges represented. Finding quality teachers to fill our retiring teachers' shoes is extremely important to the district. Every time I turn around there is a Spackenkill student competing and doing extremely well, whether in science or technology. I want to congratulate those students on their great performance and thank their teachers, advisers, and parents who inspired their efforts. I had the good fortune of attending both of the Author's Days in the elementary schools. Unfortunately, I was interrupted and had to leave early both times, but the children seemed to find the stories the authors told about what inspires their writing to be extremely engaging. Thank you to the Elementary PTA, Betsy Marchesona, and Jen Darcy. Everyone have a great spring break. We'll see you shortly.

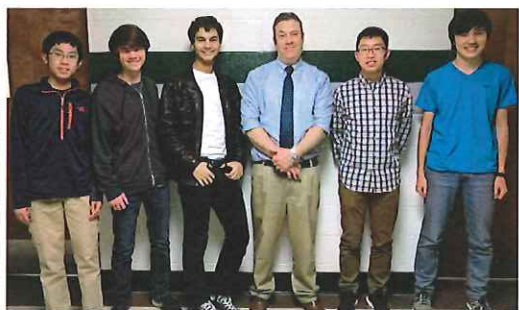
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Villanti".

**Mark Villanti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools**

**Students Vie for International Chemistry Olympiad**

**[High School Biology/Chemistry teacher John Latino reports that five Spackenkill students meet the qualifying standard for the National](#)**



to Vincent Li, Cory Mazzarelli, Jeremy Webster, Zachary Johnson, and Andrew Wu.

The local exam is given by local American Chemical Society throughout the country. It is open to all high school students. From that initial local exam, 1,000 students across the country are selected to participate in the National Exam. The National Exam is a three-part exam that lasts almost entire day and involves multiple choice, extended response, and laboratory investigations.

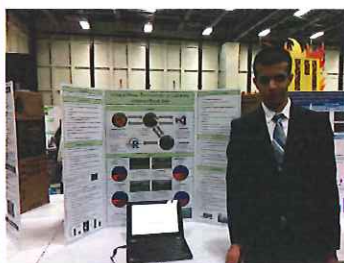
Schools are only permitted to send two students to the National Exam Competition, to be held on April 22nd at Mount Saint Mary's. The top two qualifiers are Vincent and Cory. In the event that either one of them cannot attend, the other three students serve as alternates.

The top 20 students from the National Exam Competition qualify to attend a study camp, with four students selected to represent the United States, at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Thailand.

## *Victories for Science Fair Students*

### High School and Hagan Shine

It was a big day for Spackenkill last Saturday, April 1 at Dutchess Community College. Spackenkill High School senior Daniel Busaba (*left*) earned 1st place in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), a pre-college competition, for his project titled "Using a Virtual Environment to Indirectly Measure Racial Bias." It involved designing and implementing a computer game in which over 300 high school students participated. He will move on to the ISEF in Los Angeles in May.



Hagan Elementary school students were successful in the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair. We've heard about the following honorees, but if we've overlooked someone, please let us know:

Anna Chiarieri: 3rd place

Alyssa DeLaurentis: 3rd place

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: HONORABLE MENTION

Stephen Mulcahy: Honorable Mention and Dru Rood Memorial Award for Scientific Excellence

Maya Rawls: Honorable Mention

Matthew Darcy: Dutchess County Dental Society and American Chemistry Society awards

Aidan Rogers: American Chemistry Society Award

Congratulations to the students, their families, and their teachers!

*Congratulations to all students who participated in the Dutchess County Science Fair!*



### COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES KEEP ROLLING IN

Our high school guidance office continues to update us on college admissions. Here is the latest list. Please know that there are multiple acceptances to a number of schools, such as Cornell University and Binghamton University.

Alvernia University  
 Anna Maria College  
 Berklee College of Music (Professional Performance)  
 Binghamton University  
 Binghamton University (School of Management)  
 Binghamton University (Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science)  
 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
 Boston University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Clarkson University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Cornell University  
 Culinary Institute of America  
 Dutchess Community College  
 D'Youville College  
 Five Towns College  
 Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Fordham University  
 Fordham University (Fordham College at Rose Hill)  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 George Mason University  
 Hartwick College  
 Harvard University  
 Hofstra University  
 Johns Hopkins University (School of Engineering)  
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY  
 Keuka College  
 Marist College  
 Middlebury College  
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
 Mount Saint Mary College  
 Northeastern University (College of Engineering)  
 Northeastern University (College of Science)  
 Northeastern University (D'Amore-McKim School of Business)  
 Norwich University  
 Ohio Northern University  
 Ohio University  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rider University  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Sacred Heart University  
 Sage College of Albany  
 Saint Leo University

Skidmore College  
 Springfield College  
 St. John Fisher College  
 State University of New York at Albany  
 State University of New York at New Paltz  
 Stony Brook University  
 Stony Brook University (Honors College)  
 SUNY Alfred State College  
 SUNY Buffalo State College  
 SUNY College at Brockport  
 SUNY College at Cortland  
 SUNY College at Geneseo  
 SUNY College at Oneonta  
 SUNY College at Potsdam  
 SUNY Oswego  
 Syracuse University  
 The College of Saint Rose  
 The Ohio State University  
 The University of Tampa  
 The University of Texas, Dallas  
 Towson University  
 University at Buffalo The State University of New York  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Davis  
 University of California, Los Angeles (College of Letters & Science)  
 University of California, San Diego  
 University of Central Florida (Burnett Honors College)  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Louisville  
 University of Maryland, College Park (School of Business)  
 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
 University of Michigan (Engineering)  
 University of Michigan (Ross School of Business)  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of Rochester  
 University of Southern California (College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences)  
 University of Virginia (School of Engineering)  
 Utica College  
 Virginia Tech  
 West Virginia University  
 Western New England University  
 Widener University  
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

## High School Wellness Fair Engages Students

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the High School held a Wellness Fair in the gym. Students performed fitness challenges for prizes all day. Representatives from local health-related businesses were also on hand. Everyone had a great time!



On Saturday, April 1, Todd Technology Club students took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) Expo Competition. The career expo tests students' knowledge in many areas. They have been trained in law enforcement by Officer Hamel, electrical engineering by Keith Bergin, and auto mechanics by Pat Bowden. Kudos to **Natalya Murphy, Joshua Webster, Aditya Shankar, Alex Duqyid, Maya Joy, Tobey Pelton and Nicholas Basuba** and adviser Elyse Joy!



*Students train with staff, above.*



*Team members compete in the electrical, culinary, and automotive categories, above.*



### **Todd Principal Represents Spackenkill**

Mr. Doherty, Principal of Todd Middle School, traveled to SUNY Cortland this week to attend a teacher recruitment fair. He is shown at left with his informational table for the Spackenkill District.

### **STA Spring Egg Hunt This Weekend**



The Spackenkill Teachers Association, through the PR Committee, is hosting the 6th Annual Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 12 noon for

students in grades K through 5 and their families. Volunteers, including the LEO Club, stuffed eggs with treats and prizes this week. Thank you to PR Committee members Chris Weisner and Kate Stout at Hagan, Deb Ravas at Nassau, Kristin Tiano and Jen Rubin at Todd, and Sheri Keith, Lara Bogdan, Isabelita Romero, Rebecca Koenig, and Jodi Girard at the High School.



### *Spring Egg Hunt*



Saturday, April 8, 2017

12:00 pm  
High School Track  
(due to a wet soccer field)

For Spackenkill students  
and their families  
grades K-5

Hosted by the  
Spackenkill Teachers'  
Association.

Please bring your own basket!

(This is not a drop off event, thank you.)



## Author's Day at Elementary Schools Delights Students



Thanks to the generosity of the Elementary PTA, students at Nassau and Hagan enjoyed Author's Day this week. On April 5, **Helen Lester** visited Nassau. Known for her books featuring Tacky the Penguin and other endearing

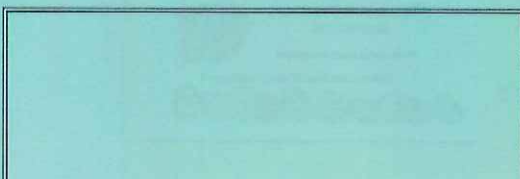
characters, Mrs. Lester entertained and informed students with tales of the writing life. A former first and second grade teacher, Mrs. Lester talked about how her husband originally encouraged her to write and how her former students inspired her. Afterward, the author took a tour of the Nassau Library with Mrs. Marchesona, who showed her all the great projects the kids created based on Mrs. Lester's books. The author donated a few to the library and even signed them!



*Top right: Mrs. Strapec's second grade poses with Mrs. Lester after her presentation. Above, left to right: Mrs. Marchesona accepted an oversize book for the library; the author signs books; Elementary PTA interim president Susan Grencer with Mrs. Lester.*



On April 6, **Jane Sutcliffe** visited Hagan Elementary. An author of 26 nonfiction biographies for children, including books about William Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci and Amelia Earhart, Mrs. Sutcliffe explained how she does her research and how she discovers all the interesting facts for her books. At the 4<sup>th</sup> grade assembly, Mr. Weisner volunteered as a biography subject and Mrs. Sutcliffe gave students tips about how they could find accurate facts about his life.





*Top left: Mrs. Sutcliffe with Mr. Weisner. Above: Mrs. Sutcliffe with Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Marchesona on Author's Day at Hagan.*

"Somewhere in this room is a future famous person," she told the group, urging the kids to keep mementos of their lives so that someone could write their biographies some day. Mrs. Sutcliffe also contributed several new books for the Hagan library.

Many thanks to Susan Grencer, Betsy Marchesona, Jen Darcy, Pat Sample, Patty Petrillo, Yvonne Laube, Enid Roberts, Anna Shah, Pat Richardson, and Liz Pelish for all your hard work. It is much appreciated!

15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; 845.463.7800

**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.

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

[Please submit story ideas to](#)

[mary.forsell@sufsdny.org](mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org)

Issues of the newsletter are available on the [Spackenkill website:](#)  
[www.spackenkillschools.org/district\\_newsletter\\_archive](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive)

