

Please see community flyers that might be of interest:

[Poughkeepsie Soccer Team](#)



*What's Right with  
Spackenkill!*

*April 21, 2017*

*A tradition of excellence  
with a vision for  
tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

There are so many exciting initiatives being undertaken at Spackenkill, I'm not sure where to begin. You may not realize that while all of our students were off on Monday, our teachers and administrators were very busy trying to improve our curriculum and classroom practices. There were numerous presentations and collaborative discussions across the district. I am very impressed with our work to keep up with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning requirements.

I want to thank our IBM partners and also salute the efforts throughout the district to recognize Earth Day. Taking care of our environment is important, and focusing on our small piece of the pie—the Spackenkill community—is a great way to showcase important concepts on a local level. Final shout-outs to our foreign language department (the students had a great trip abroad), the Math Team for being top 20 in the state (a remarkable achievement!), and the PRISMS concert, which showcased our music talent and the excellent leadership of our music teachers. It makes me continue to a proud member of this learning community.

Sincerely,

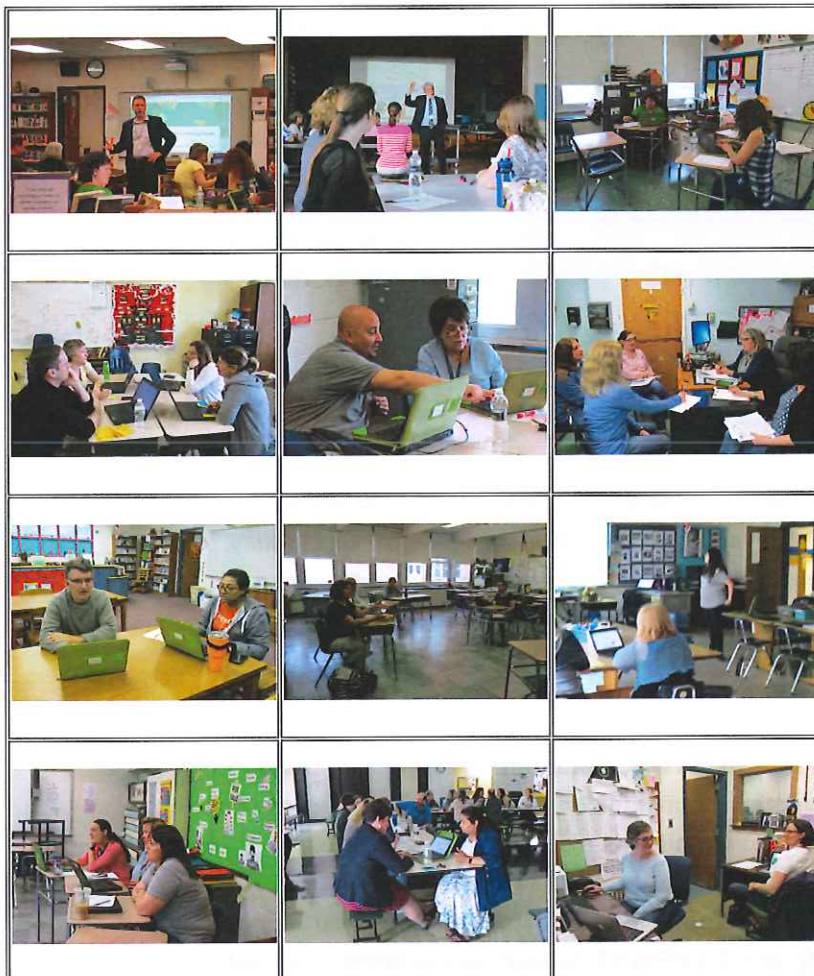
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Villanti".

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### **Superintendent's Conference Day**

**On April 17, staff attended a full day of department meetings. Dr. Villanti visited the elementary schools and Todd to present information about teacher mentoring and a technology fellowship program (he goes to the High School on May 2). Elementary teachers at Hagan participated in Unpacking Next Generation Science Standards, led by Anchala Sobrin,**

**Dean of Students at Todd Middle School, while staff at both elementary schools participated in an Atlas Reading Curriculum Writing workshop.**



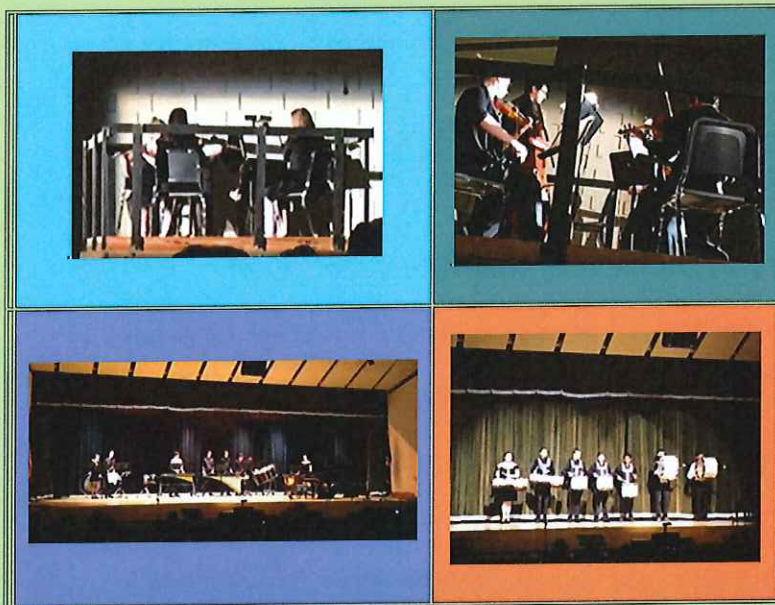
*Top row left to right:* Dan Doherty, Principal of Todd Middle School, speaks to staff. Dr. Mark Villanti, Superintendent of Schools, presents to Nassau teachers about mentoring. Foreign language teachers compare notes.

*Second row left to right:* English curriculum meeting in progress. Chromebook conference. School nurses discuss new protocols.

*Third row left to right:* AIS teachers collaborate on Chromebooks. Math curriculum meeting. Technology integrator Marcella Byrne leads a session with staff.

*Bottom row left to right:* Math teachers exchange notes. Anchala Sobrin and Dr. Lori Mulford discuss Next Generation Science Standards during a presentation to Hagan teachers. Music department at work in their high school office.

The Spackenkill High School auditorium filled with the sounds of music on April 19, as students shared their gifts at the PRISMS concert. This concert is a unique, seamless, multi-sensory experience that emphasizes listening over watching. It features large-ensemble groups intermixed with chamber groups and soloists. The unique setup of the concert – where the audience sits in the middle with instrumental setups on all four sides of the crowd – is what makes this concert truly an event worth experiencing.



### French Students Travel Abroad



Over the spring break, High School French students took a trip to Europe. Mme. Stathidis came out of retirement to run the trip, as she had promised students she would. Both her husband, Alex, and Mme. Webster were also chaperones. They spent four days seeing many sights in

Paris -- including The Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Monet waterlilies at the Orangerie -- and moved on to Normandy to visit the D-

day Beaches and American cemetery. They also toured the South of France, stopping in Cannes and Nice, as well as Ventimiglia, Italy, and the Principality of Monaco. Thank you to Mme. Stathidis and Mme. Webster for all your hard work and planning.



### *Congratulations to the SHS Math Team*

The Spackenkill High School Math Team ranks in the top 20 statewide in New York Mathematics League!

**Robby Waxman** and **Vincent Li** have been recognized for scoring a perfect 6 on the last meet.

Vincent was in a multi-way tie for fifth in the State with a total of 32 points.

#### FALL SPORTS BEGIN IN AUGUST

Spartan athletes take note: It's never too early to start planning for next season. Please note that all Varsity and JV Fall Sports start August 14. Modified Fall Sports start September 7.

#### IBM Engineer's Week Comes to Nassau



Mrs. Zanca's second grade class participated in IBM's Engineer's Week with Mr. Giorgio this past week. He gave them the task of having to build a craft that would safely return the astronaut (ping pong ball) to Earth. They used Styrofoam cups, index cards, straws, spaghetti and tape to assemble their crafts. Mr. Giorgio also explained the task of engineers and how they must do many trials before their creations are acceptable. The students learned a lot, as you'll see from the photos below. Thank you Mr. Giorgio!



*Daisy Troop to Plant Windowboxes*



Daisy Troop 10580 has volunteered their time to plant flowers out front in Nassau's windowboxes. All are kindergartners at Nassau. The planting is a part of their Take Action project from our "It's Your World, Change It! Journey." Thank you to the girls and their troop leader, Tammy Gehlert.

*Signs of Spring*



Mrs. Burr and her son Ricky brought in their hen, Juanita Mamasita, to visit Mrs. Blazek and her students at Nassau. She hatched in Mrs. Blazek's class two years ago. Mrs. Burr and Ricky visited each kindergarten classroom and did a mini science lesson. Stay tuned: Mrs. Ravas and Mrs. Blazek have 12 eggs in each of their incubators. Hatch day is April 25!





## *Earth Day Events Across the District*

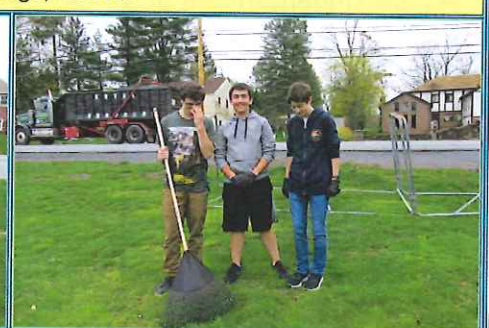
Spackenkill students celebrated Earth Week and Earth Day (April 22) with a range of events. At Nassau, Mrs. Strapec's, Ms. Syvertsen's, and Mrs. Zanca's classes at Nassau School wrote slogans and made pictures to encourage customers at the Adam's Fairacre Farm Store in Poughkeepsie to remember to take care of our wonderful Earth. The classes were thrilled that the store was willing to loan them bags to allow them to connect with the local community by writing messages and making illustrations on them. The bags will be distributed on Earth Day to customers. Stop by the store to see the bags. "We are delighted to have the opportunity to do something special that can make a difference in our community," said Mrs. Strapec.

At Hagan, Mrs. Riehl directed a recycling initiative.

At the High School, students dressed up to represent different themes each day: Save the Oceans, Endangered Species/Favorite Species, Recycling, and Love Your Mother Earth. The week culminated with volunteers from the Track Team and the Environmental Club cleaning up the high school grounds.



*Mrs. Strapec's 2nd grade class decorated shopping bags, above.*



*High school students cleaned up the grounds, above.*

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)

