

Please see a flyer that might be of interest:

[Host Family Opportunity Rotary Youth Exchange](#)



*What's Right with
Spackenkill!*

June 2, 2017

*A tradition of
excellence with a
vision for
tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I don't know where to start this week in our newsletter. There have been so many special events, celebrations, and activities throughout the last few weeks that we cannot include all of them in this week's newsletter. Not only am I impressed with the many student accomplishments featured herein, but also with the behind-the-scenes support and commitment of our dedicated teachers, support staff, and families that enables our students to aspire to become excellent musicians and vocalists, science researchers, mathematicians, artists, and scholars. Enjoy the fruits of your labors! Your achievements are well deserved.

Next week we will include many of the events that space does not allow this week, such as the Hagan/Nassau Spring Fling, Academic and Athletic Awards, and more. With all of the special activities, please do not lose sight of end-of-year responsibilities. We have a special Board of Education Meeting on June 12 at 7:30 in the Todd Middle School Dining Hall where we will Celebrate the Success of retiring and current staff, clubs, volunteers, and distinguished students. We will post the program a few days before the event and we welcome all of you to attend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Villanti".

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Spring Concerts Fill Schools with Music

Throughout the month of May, spring concerts were held in all the schools. Hagan Elementary band, chorus, and strings students held their own in-school concert and also visited Nassau to perform for the younger students. Nassau second graders sang as well. At the secondary level, the Todd Orchestra, Chorus, and Band each held a separate concert. The High School Mixed Choir, String Ensemble, and Jazz Band took the stage on May 22, while the Chamber Orchestra, Women's Chorus, and Concert Band performed on May 24. Congratulations to all the musicians and vocalists, as well as the music department teachers! A sampling of performance images follows:

Elementary Concerts



Principal Nancy Ferrarone at Nassau in-school concert



2nd Grade Chorus performs at Nassau in-school concert



3rd Grade Chorus



4th and 5th Grade Chorus



Concert Band



Gold Strings

Todd Concerts



7th and 8th Grade Band



Choral Concert

High School Concerts



Concert Choir



Orchestra



String Ensemble



Jazz Band

Scholar-Athletes Honored at MHAL Breakfast

On May 24, the 19th Annual Mid-Hudson Athletic League Senior Scholar-Athlete Breakfast took place in Saugerties at Diamond Mills. Spackenkill High School students **Gabrielle Prichard** and **John Timm** were honored at the event. Gabrielle is captain of the Varsity Soccer team, a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Class of 2017, and vice president of Student Government Organization. John plays Varsity Golf and Basketball and is captain of both teams. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a CYO volunteer. Both students plan to attend SUNY Binghamton. *Pictured above left to right:* Parents Mary and John Timm, student John Timm, and Gabrielle Prichard and her mom, Nancy Quinn.



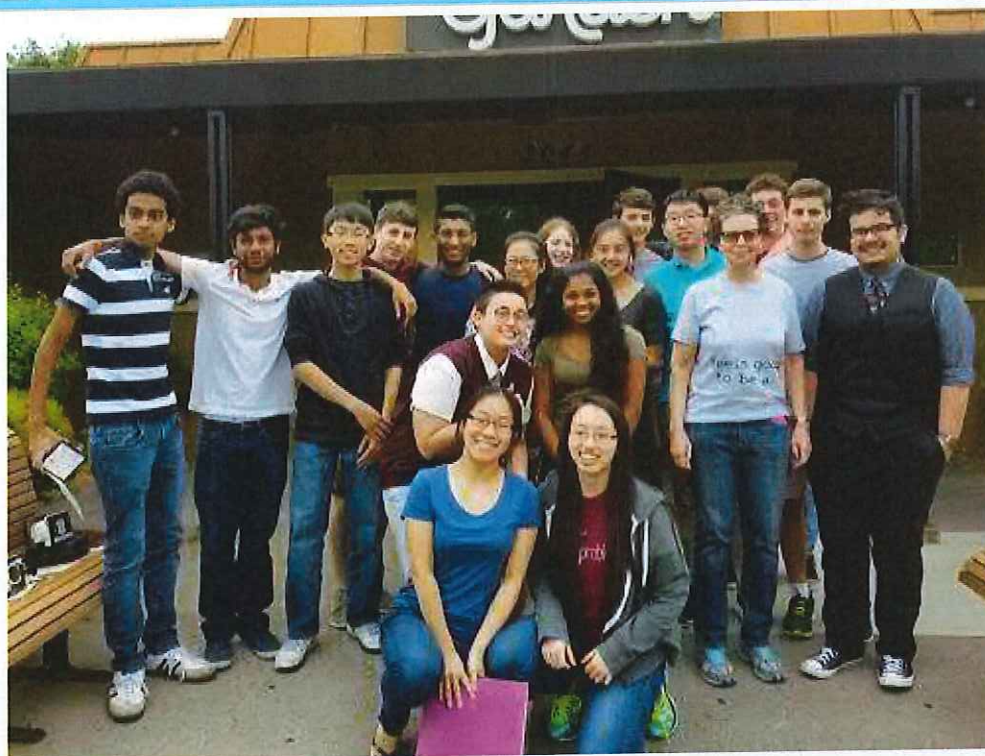
Teaching Teachers

Teacher Karen Crichton recently presented "Language and Literacy Instruction For All Students" to a large audience of fellow teachers at the Mid-Hudson Reading Council at Locust Grove. Ms. Crichton shared strategies for developing language and literacy for all students, with a focus on students in the English As a New Language (ENL) program. State mandates and practical strategies to use with students were also part of this most informative presentation.

NYS Scholarship Winners

The Spackenkill High School recipients of the 2017 Scholarships for Academic Excellence, given by New York State, have been selected. Kudos to **Eileen Gao, Robert Waxman, Anubhav Shankar, Susan Gong, and Leah Mozeshtam**. [To learn more about the scholarships, please click on this link.](#)

Math Team Celebrates Wins



On May 21, members of the Mathematics Team and parents gathered at the Olive Garden to recognize our graduating seniors: **Mahmoud Almady, Anirudh Bhimavarapu, Eileen Gao, Susan Gong, Yan Lok Ko, Vincent Li, Jacob Moore, Leah Mozeshtam, Anubhav Shankar, Anshuman Swain and Robert Waxman** (pictured above with Ms. Pupko and event organizers **Cynthia Ma** and **Rachel Li** (also pictured separately). Dr. Villanti briefly addressed the students, congratulating them on their numerous successes throughout the year. This group of seniors has been instrumental in raising the profile of mathematics at Spackenkill High School. Any five of them would have ranked at the top of most of the districts against whom we compete! We were the only district that had four teams -- the maximum allowed by the DUSO league -- qualify for sectionals at Vassar College, and that includes districts with seven times as many students in a graduating class! Congratulations to students and Ms. Pupko for this impressive track record. Come join the fun -- new members are always welcome! Please see Ms. Pupko for more information.



Students Present Original Science Research

At the Science Research Class Symposium on Tuesday May 30th in the high school auditorium, seniors

Daniel Busaba, Eileen Gao, Vincent Li, and Nathan Liang presented Power Points on their research projects.

Sophomores and juniors shared posters on journal articles in their areas of research.

Guest speaker was Dr. John Long, Biology and Robotics professor at Vassar College.

Kudos to the students, and a big thank you to science research teachers

Kris Chen, Jennifer Maloney, and Amy Matts.



Above: Students shared research projects in lobby. Below, left to right: Eileen Gao, Vincent Li, Amy Matts, Jennifer Maloney, Kris Chen, Nathan Liang, and Daniel Busaba. The students presented their teachers with bouquets of appreciation for their work and support.



Spackenkill District Art Show

A Celebration of the Visual Arts

Please join us Thursday, June 8, 2017

At Hagan Elementary

For our Annual District Art Show

*Stroll the Hagan halls from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. as
the entire school will be transformed by art!*

*Each elementary student has chosen one drawing or painting and one
sculpture to exhibit. Don't miss the collaborative art installations
created by students in all grades.*

*Join in on a fun scavenger hunt, participate in art activities, and see
demonstrations by local artists.*

*Enjoy art created by students from the Middle School and High School
art programs.*

Interactive Art Show



See additional works by the artist, read artist statements, and leave a comment for the artist using the artists QR code linked to Artsonia. Before the art show, download a free app on your smartphone or tablet for reading QR codes. Don't Have a Smartphone or QR Reader, no problem, Art Assistants will be roaming the halls with iPads that you can use.

Third Graders Learn Bicycle Safety

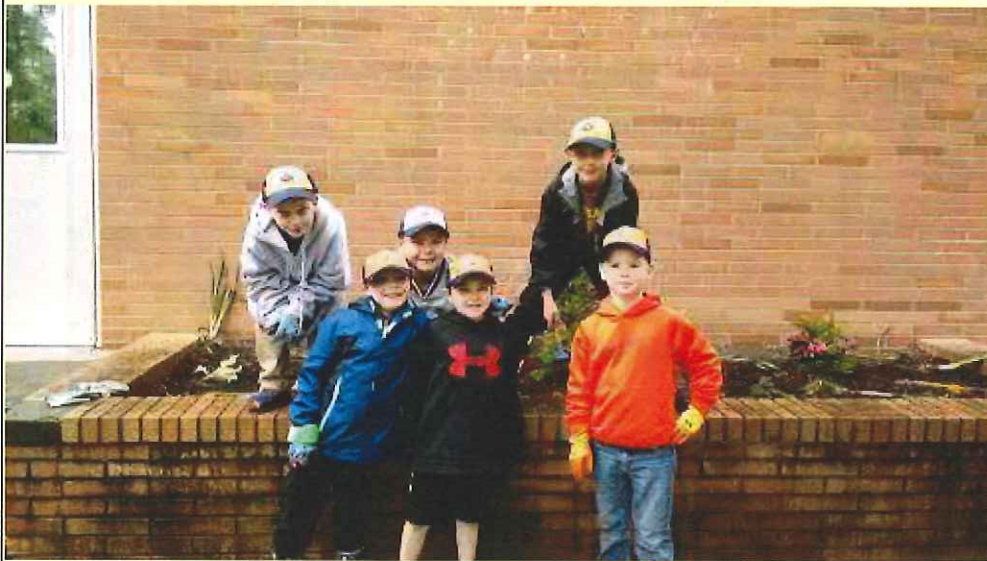
Third graders participated in Hagan's annual Bike Rodeo on May 24th. Students learned about Bicycle Training safety,



including looking out for cars, walking bikes when appropriate, using hand signals, and avoiding obstacles. Some students used their scooters instead. Many thanks to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police, Mrs. Dooley-Russo, Mr. Molon, Mr. Murin, and all those who volunteered to run the different stations.



Scouts Beautify Nassau



On their day off from school last Friday, The Cub Scouts planted some beautiful perennials to complement the marigolds planted by Daisy Troop #10580 earlier this season. **Brayden Cookinham, Zachary Altieri, Alex Schaefer, Jack (John) Cohen, Luke Wishrad, and Tyler Cookinham** did an outstanding job!

Thank you to Den Leader Nicole Altieri as well as to volunteers Brad Cookinham, Jeff Cohen, Colleen Cohen, Paul Wishrad, and Joanna Schaefer.

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:](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive)
www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive

