



*What's Right with
Spackenkill!*

March 24, 2017

*A tradition of
excellence with a
vision for
tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

In reviewing this week's issue of *What's Right with Spackenkill!*, it was interesting to note Todd Student Government holding their spirit week as "Greasers" and this year Spack Onstage performing *Grease*. So I do want to give a shout-out to the production. Our students, advisors, and volunteers have worked very hard to put together a great musical with four shows in three days. We performed at *Grease* at Haldane. It's a fun show and it's appropriate for all ages. Tickets might go fast, so consider buying in advance. I also want to add a shout-out to Mrs. Morehead's work with Shakespear in her Todd classes. I think you'll enjoy the article. Theater is alive and well at Spackenkill!

I haven't had a chance to tell Victor Catanzaro and the Marching Band how much I enjoyed watching them accompany Aretha Franklin while playing "Respect" on one of the coldest nights of the year. Well done!

Sincerely,

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

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Spackenkill Marching Band Plays at Bardavon



On March 11, the Spackenkill Marching Band entertained an enthusiastic crowd following the Aretha Franklin concert at the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie, just a week after playing at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Wappingers. "It was beyond my expectations," said band director Victor Catanzaro. "The kids sounded great." After

Ms. Franklin sang "Respect" for her encore, the band picked up the song and continued to play it as the audience began exiting into the lobby." The band then marched through the doors to Market Street and entertained the crowd, accompanied by circus performers and stilt walkers. Even though the temperatures dipped into the teens, no one seemed to notice the cold at all!



Grease Is the Word!

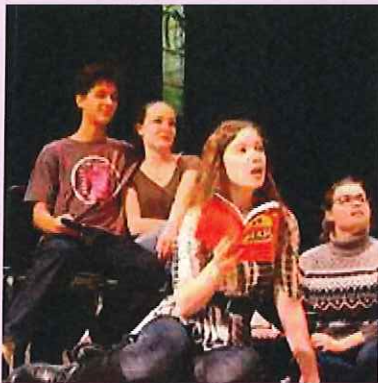
Spack Onstage, the Spackenkill drama club, is proud to present the musical *GREASE* next weekend at the Spackenkill High School auditorium. Come see the Pink Ladies and all your other favorite characters take the stage and bring you back to the 50s. The show takes place on the following dates:



Friday, March 31 @ 7pm
Saturday, April 1 @ 2 pm and 7pm
Sunday, April 2 @ 2pm

Tickets are available during the school day in the auditorium lobby. You could also call 845-463-7810 during school hours. Or visit the drama club on [Facebook at Spack Onstage Spackenkill High School](#)

[Drama Club](#) to reserve.



SRO Provides Real-Life Training



Spackenkill senior **Joe Arcuri** recently accompanied School Resource Officer Chris Hamel to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department. Joe received a tour of the department, met other officers and spent six hours on patrol with Officer Hamel. The visit was prompted by Joe's interest in a criminal justice career. If other students are interested in law enforcement, the police department is hosting the 2nd Annual Youth Academy on June 26th through June 30th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The academy is open to students residing in the Town of Poughkeepsie who are entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade. For more information or to obtain an application, see Officer Hamel or go to www.townpolice.net.

HS Students Visit UN

Twenty-one students from Spackenkill High School, along with Mr. Boenig and Mr. DeSouza, visited the United Nations building in New York City on March 23rd.



Many of the students are Model UN participants. Students had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the facility and participate in a Q & A session with UN representative Hector Calderon of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Math Team Continues to Score High

Congratulations to Vincent Li and Robby Waxman for leading the way in the last New York Mathematics League contest with perfect scores of 6. Karthik Dusi, Cynthia Ma, Justin Moore, Jeremy Webster, and Andrew Wu each scored 5. Jean Chun, Samuel Chen, Sharon Devlin, Anya Justin, and Rachel Li each scored 4.

High team scorers at Spack for the the year are:

Vincent Li - 32

Robert Waxman - 30

Andrew Wu - 28

Shoebox Shakespeare

Mrs. Elizabeth Morehead's seventh grade English classes presented Act One, Scene Two from Macbeth using shoebox stages that they



designed collaboratively. Students chose buttons to represent individual characters – for example,



fancy buttons for royalty and shiny metal buttons for military figures. Reading from scripts, students acted out the scene, using button characters to illustrate the action and even incorporating light and sound features in their shoebox stages. It was evident that the students really enjoyed presenting their work. After the groups presented, they compared and contrasted their approaches and pinpointed techniques that worked, highlights from the performances, and challenges they faced.

Mrs. Morehead has a special interest in Shakespeare, having trained with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's (HVSF) [Teachers' Shakespeare Institute](#) beginning some 10 years ago. At the time, she was looking for a meaningful way to teach *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to eighth grade students. Since then, Mrs. Morehead has attended summer institutes every year and has integrated a number of techniques for enlivening students' study of The Bard, for both seventh and eighth graders alike. The HVSF has visited Spackenkill numerous times over the last ten years to perform Shakespeare's works for Todd students and in addition teaching artists from the Festival have come into students' English classes to work on performance skills in light of



Shakespeare's text. Mrs. Morehead tells us that her work with the HVSF has enabled her to make Shakespeare highly engaging for students and even sparked

a lifelong interest in some of her students. "I am beyond appreciative that Spackenkill has helped to support this partnership with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and I work hard to implement as many



techniques as I can to make students' experience with Shakespeare meaningful and relevant." Up next, Mrs. Morehead is headed to the Boston Public Library to visit "Shakespeare Unauthorized," an exhibit, which features some of the

oldest and most original editions of Shakespeare's works. "This will be an enlightening experience for me, deepening my own knowledge and

enhancing future lessons for our students.”

[Read an article by Mrs. Morehead on Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's blog.](#)



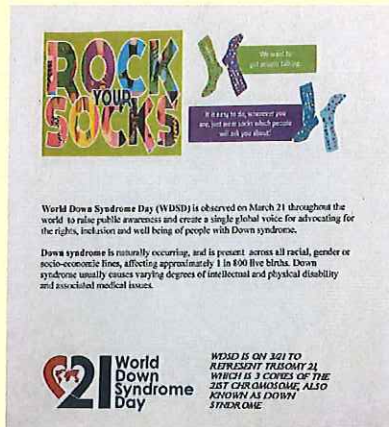
Todd Student Government Holds Spirit Week

For Todd Spirit Week, students dressed up as different themes each day. Below are some Greasers and Hippies. The week culminates in a Talent Show on Friday, March 24 at 5 pm.



Students Observe World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21 throughout the world to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities.



In recognition of this day, Mr. and Mrs. Gehlert sent in silly socks for each student in the classrooms of Mrs. Blazek's and Mrs. Engle's classes. The socks were generously donated by the Down Syndrome Association of the Hudson Valley. The students wore their silly socks to school on March 21st. The two classes gathered for the story "My Friend Has Down Syndrome."

Green Power



St. Patrick's Day had students from elementary (below) to high school age (left) wearing their emerald best. At Nassau, classes made leprechaun catchers and enjoyed a green breakfast of pancakes, granny smith apple slices, and shamrock-colored pudding.



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spackenkillschools.org

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

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