

Please see community flyers below that may be of interest:

[T.E.A.C.H. Summer Academy](#)

[Secrets in the Garden at Locust Grove](#)

[Kid Venture](#)

[Summer Reading Sale Poughkeepsie Library](#)



*What's Right with
Spackenkill!*

May 19, 2017

*A tradition of
excellence with a
vision for
tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I hope you enjoy another issue of *What's Right with Spackenkill!* Frankly, there's a lot to like about Spackenkill. I would be remiss, however, if I didn't begin by thanking the Board of Education and our voters, who supported our district budget overwhelmingly. We appreciate all those who took the time to vote. We're also sending as a separate item a flyer on the May 23rd Board meeting next week, whose major intent is to review the Capital Project. It starts at 7:30 pm in the Middle School Dining Hall. We encourage everyone to attend, learn about the project from our architectural and engineering firms, and make comments to assist the Board in completing the final scope of the project.

In looking at the photos in these pages, you can't help but feel the positive energy of students and staff. We are all very proud of their accomplishments!

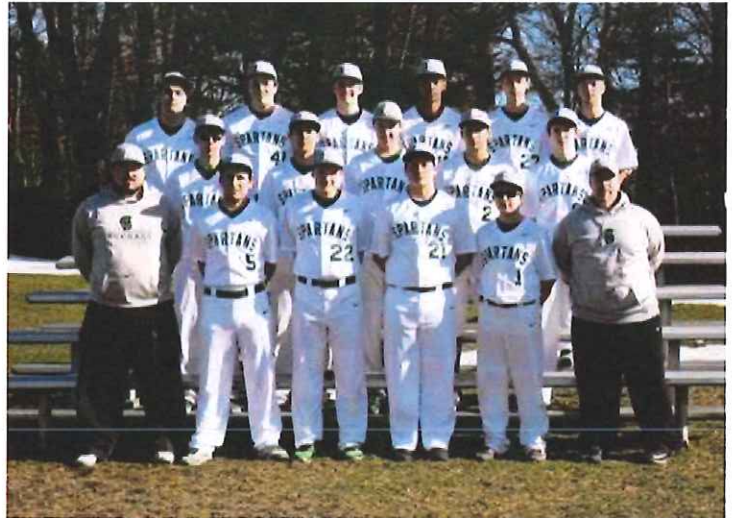
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Villanti". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Highlights from the Athletics Department



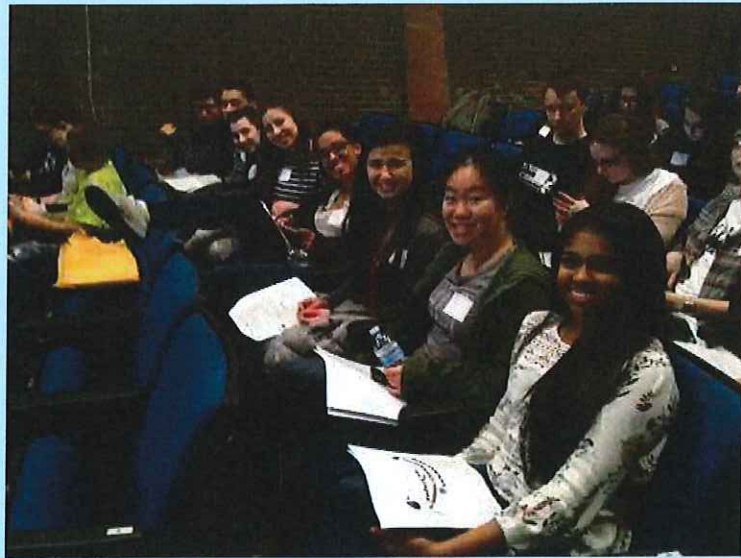
Congratulations to the **Varsity 4 boat** for taking 1st place at the NYS Rowing Championship in Saratoga! They will compete against some of the best boats in the country at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America National Championship Regatta on May 26th and 27th in Camden, New Jersey. Kudos to Head Coach Robin Ackerman and crew members **Zachary Habert, Michael Ryan, Andrew Moriarty, Luke Moriarty, and Thomas Gagliardi.**

In other news, **Varsity Baseball** defeated FDR on May 17 10-2. Head coach Don Neise captured his 300th career win!

Student Governments Attend Conference

On Monday, May 15th, student governments from Spackenkill High School (above) and Todd Middle School (below) traveled together with advisers Ms. Klein and Mrs. Vasquez to attend the NYS Lower Hudson Council on Leadership and Student Activities (CLSA) regional conference, "Safari to Leadership," at Somers High School. During the day-long event, the students heard from keynote speaker Kyle Scheele and attended

CHESS CHAMP!



workshops and idea-sharing sessions. The students returned with many new approaches for fundraising, school spirit initiatives, and community service activities to share at their next student government meetings.



Kudos to High School student **Elliot Rivera** for winning the *Third Annual Spackenkill Spring Chess Tournament*. He is pictured above with Principal *Steve Malkischer* (left) and teacher *Dave Bromsey*.

MATH TEAM TOPS ASMA

*Our High School Math Team has been recognized in the American Scholastic Mathematics Association (ASMA) competition as **First Place With Special Merit**. Great job team!*

Todd Stands Out in National French Club Contest



On March 23, all Todd 8th grade French students participated in the Grand Concours, otherwise known as the National French Contest. This exam is sponsored each year by the American Association of Teachers of French and assesses reading comprehension, grammar, and knowledge of cultural information. It also has a listening component. The exams are graded at national headquarters and the students are then ranked based on the number of correct responses. Spackenkill has been participating in this event for more than 30 years with great success. We have consistently had chapter and national winners at all levels. The foreign language department is very excited to announce our 2017 chapter and national winners at the 1A level.

Ranking 12th Hudson Valley Chapter Winners are
Samantha Bosaz and Christina Pierce

Scoring in the top 10, our National winners are as follows:

Ranking 9th are ***Erica Koller and Liam Moren***

Ranking 7th is ***Anikha Justin***

Ranking 6th is ***Abigail Straus***

Ranking 4th are ***Emily Cohen and Maggie Schmitt***

Ranking 3rd in a three-way tie are ***Taha Ali, Caroline Currie, and***
Lucy Palumbo

Finally, ranked 1st in the Nation, with a perfect score is

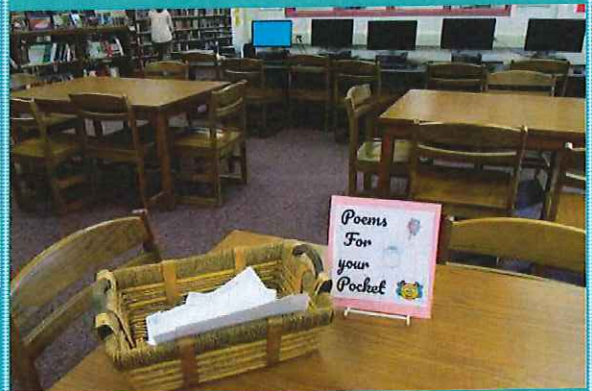
Sanjana Shahani

All students who participated will receive a certificate. The above-mentioned students, also pictured, will receive awards and certificates from the American Association of Teachers of French. Please note, Emily Cohen is not pictured in the photo. Outstanding job, everyone!

Poetry and Creativity Celebrated at Todd

Middle School teacher Jonathan Shanks planned a *Poem in Your Pocket* day on May 11th. The day encourages participants to read, share, and be inspired by poetry. Natalie Palome designed an outstanding display for this event in the lobby. Students had fun reading poems, whether they took them from a poem basket or created their own original verse. In the library, Ms. Cunningham (pictured with student, right) encouraged reciting poetry aloud.

Ms. Cunningham and Mrs. Joy are also in the news because they received a School Library Media Specialists of Southeastern NY (SLMSSSENY) Bea Griggs Memorial Incentive Grant of \$500 toward creation of a Middle School Makerspace. The grant was designed to encourage young people to use libraries. They also received a \$1,500 Verizon STEM Grant for the project.



Science Students Study Ecosystem

This past week, seventh grade science students worked with an educator from the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies to learn more about the environment right around the middle school. The students explored the role of mammal diversity and Lyme disease. They baited stations with tuna fish, sunflower seeds, and acorns to see what animals they would attract over a three-day period. Motion-sensor cameras

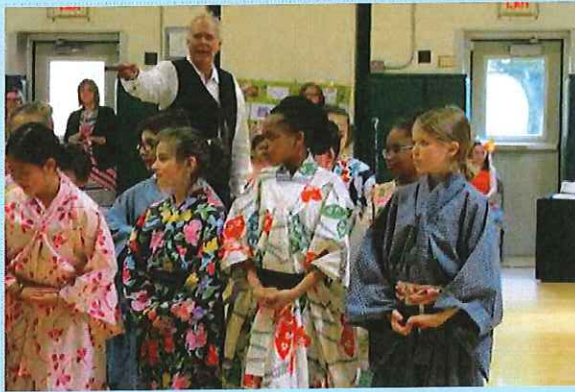
captured footage of raccoons, a fox, groundhogs, squirrels, and mice (surprisingly, no deer!). The students learned that biodiversity in mammal populations helps control the spread of Lyme. Interestingly, relatively few opossums, raccoons, and deer are infected with Lyme, compared to mice.



Vanaver Caravan Tradition Continues at Hagan

On May 12, 3rd grade students at Hagan Elementary put on a spectacular performance that explored multicultural dance and associated traditions. Working with The Vanaver Caravan, a nonprofit organization that performs world dance and music, students not only learned international and American folk dances, but they also came to appreciate the ways of life that shaped them. Pictured are students wearing ethnic costumes and performing dances from the Baltic, Japan, and even the Bronx, New York.





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