



What's Right with Spackenkill!

December 2, 2016

**Spackenkill Union
Free School District**

A tradition of excellence with
a vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Families,

This week we look at the accomplishments of our high school students. We had 16 students who qualified to be part of the Area All-State Festival this year. We're very proud of their efforts and performance. We also want to salute the five high school students who traveled with their co-advisor, Joann Klein, to a New York State leadership conference on behalf of the Student Government Organization. Another shout-out goes to School Resource Officer Chris Hamel, who is extremely involved in the district. For example, he and Spackenkill High School Principal Steve Malkischer recently developed an evacuation plan for the November 22 go-home drill. In addition, SRO Hamel and Todd Middle School Principal Dan Doherty decided to be proactive in visiting with students to talk about the importance of using appropriate language and treating everyone with respect. While we have many divisions within our country, the culture at Spackenkill is generally described as one of mutual respect. Finally, we have a spotlight on teacher Anne Riehl, who is teaching a unit on recycling at Hagan Elementary.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Interim/Acting Superintendent

Area All-State Music Festival

On Nov. 18 and 19, sixteen students from the band, chorus, and orchestra represented Spackenkill High School at this year's Area All-State Festival in LaGrangeville. These students traveled to the beautiful Arlington High School on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to participate in intensive series of rehearsals. The students performed a final celebration concert on Saturday afternoon with standing ovations after

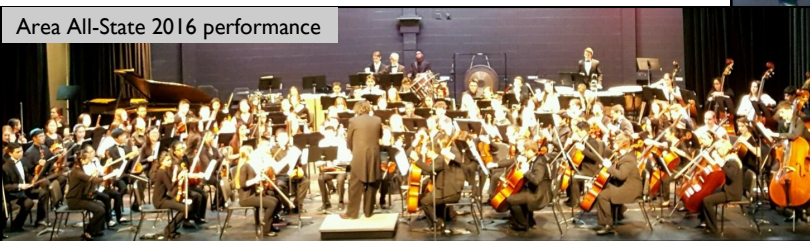
every group. The students who participated in this festival were selected based upon their excellent performing skills. Bravo to music teachers Marissa Kaczynski, Victor Catanzaro, and Julie Carter for their terrific achievements!

Congratulations to the following students, pictured at right:

Vasvi Bhutani, Eric Choi, Jeana Chun, Brielle Duguid, Annika Hill, Anya Justin, Cece Kim, Baylee Kramer, Christina Li, Rachel Li, Vincent Li, John Mulcahy, Laura Patkus, Madeleine Thezan, Nitya Upadhyayula, Nymisha Upadhyayula



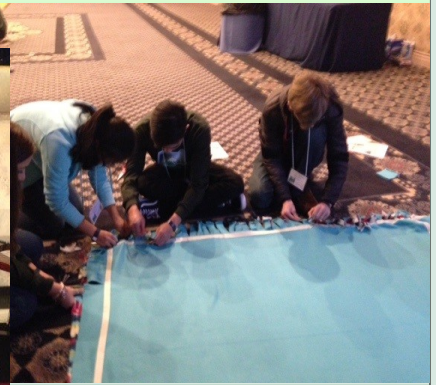
Area All-State 2016 performance



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www.spackenkillschools.org

SGO Leadership Conference

On Monday, November 21 Student Government Organization co-advisor Ms. Klein and five of the SHS Student Government Organization members participated in the NYS Counsel on Leadership and Student Activities State conference, held at the Honors Haven Resort in Ellenville. They joined over 500 student leaders from around the state participating in leadership workshops and heard motivational speakers. As part of group community service project, the students



Left: Cody Usher, Caitlyn Speranza, Rachel Li, Marcella Breglia and Nyi-Rein Kyaw participated in a leadership state conference. Above: As part of a community service project, students crafted a fleece blanket for a children's hospital.

made a fleece blanket for the Blythedale Children's Hospital. The students learned some excellent fundraising, school spirit, and community service ideas to share with SGO.

High School Evacuation Drill



Just before the Thanksgiving break on Tuesday, November 22, Spackenkill High School held an evacuation drill under the guidance of School Resource Officer Chris Hamel and Principal Steve Malkischer. Photos appear left and right.



Todd Middle School Respect Initiative

On Monday, November 28, SRO Hamel and Todd Middle School Principal Dan Doherty addressed students during lunches to emphasize the importance of using appropriate language in their interactions with their peers.



Left: Last week's newsletter should have identified Teacher's Aide Michele Brenner in the photo with Nassau Principal Nancy Ferrarone. We regret the error!



Hagan Students Learn About Recycling

Cornell Cooperative Extension volunteers Linda LoGiurato and Kathy Smith visited Hagan Elementary School on Wednesday, November 30 for a "Trash Talk" with Mrs. Riehl's enrichment class. A lively, environmentally friendly presentation on recycling and composting was part of a unit on sustainability that the students began last year.

Mrs. Smith told the students that although all of the landfills in Dutchess County have shut down, about five percent of our waste is shipped to upstate New York on trucks. "If we can really do a good job recycling, we can eliminate taking it upstate," she said. "Fifty percent of what's sitting in our garbage cans can be diverted to recycling or composting." Mrs. Smith and Mrs. LoGiurato displayed a million-year timeline for the students so that they could visualize how long it takes for objects to decompose. Students were surprised to learn that it takes 100 years for a can and 500 years for a glass bottle to break down. Styrofoam takes much, much longer—possibly a million years, all way to the end of the timeline.

Students were also amazed by how many things can be recycled, including toothpaste tubes and bubble wrap. They learned how different materials are processed at the ReCommunity Recycling plant in Beacon, one of only 40 or so Materials Recovery Facilities, or MRFs, in the entire country. "We hope that you'll help your school recycle," Mrs. LoGiurato told the class. Thank you to Mrs. Riehl for organizing the talk and to Mrs. LoGiurato and Mrs. Smith for visiting!



Hagan students work Linda LoGiurato (above) and Kathy Smith (below) on identifying recyclable materials.



Beloved Busdriver Retires

Upon her retirement, we would like to salute full-time bus driver Mary Foster for her 14 years of service to the Spackenkill district. Although she retired as of November 28, fortunately for us, she will continue to be a substitute driver in the district!



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.

Please email newsletter submissions and ideas to Mary Forsell at

mary.forsell@sufsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:

www.spackenkillschools.org

Vision:

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