



# What's Right with Spackenkill!

December 9, 2016

**Spackenkill Union  
Free School District**

A tradition of excellence with a  
vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Staff,

This week I'd like to give a shout-out to the members of our community who participated in an impact panel to help students make good life choices during tough times. In addition, Marco Lanzoni, along with his basketball team coaches and boosters, sponsored our first Midnight Madness Basketball event, which was very well attended.

I'm also impressed that our Hagan students are navigating coding. This activity is so valuable to young minds. Finally, as a former high school principal, as proud as I was with our school's athletic accomplishments, I was even prouder when a team received the distinction of a scholar-athlete team award. That was always tops on my list, so it's noteworthy that almost 90 percent our fall varsity teams were recognized as scholar-athlete team award winners.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Interim/Acting Superintendent

## Hagan Hour of Code

For the third year in a row, Hagan students observed Computer Science Month by participating in an Hour of Code. The students all learned how to start coding by creating a game using the Disney movie *Moana*. Kudos to teacher Anne Riehl, who guided them through the coding process.



## Mathematics Team Excels

Congratulations to the Mathematics Team and their advisor, Eleanor Pupko! The team had an outstanding performance at the November Dutchess/Ulster/Sullivan/Orange (DUSO) Math League meet. Here are the top scoring teams:

- ✓ Spack A, B and C scored top three and Spack D scored in sixth place.
- ✓ At the individual level, Vincent Li had the only perfect score of 6.
- ✓ 5 Point Scorers: Jeana Chun, Zachary Johnson, Robby Waxman, Anubhav Shankar, Anshuman Swain, Andrew Wu, Rachel Li
- ✓ 4 Point Scorers: Cynthia Ma, Eileen Gao, Susan Gong, Justin Moore

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## SHS Assembly Sends Powerful Message

On November 29 at Spackenkill High School, students gathered for an assembly titled Breaking the Cycle. Through compelling real-life stories, speakers delivered a powerful message about letting go of anger. "I thought they did a great job telling kids to use their resources in school, home, and community and find that one person to talk to you and share your anger and pain," said School Social Worker Joann Klein. For more information, please visit [breakingthecycle.com](http://breakingthecycle.com). Our thanks to the following guests:

Representing the 41<sup>st</sup> NYS Senate district: NYS Senator Sue Serino and Lydia Biskup. Director of District Operations and mother of a former Spackenkill student.

Representing the NYS Assembly 106<sup>th</sup> District: John Midwood from Didi Barrett's office.

Representing our Dutchess County Government: Jodi Miller, the Equal Employment Opportunity and Human Rights Officer.



## Midnight Madness Basketball



On Thursday, December 1, Midnight Madness took over the Spackenkill High School gymnasium. Organized by the Basketball Club, Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Don Neise, Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Tom Bell, and Athletics Director Marco Lanzoni, the event provided an opportunity for the community to meet our basketball teams and raise money for the club. The night consisted of contests, raffles, and prizes and was a big success.



## Scholar-Athlete Teams Named



The following fall athletic teams were named New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Teams:

(Team GPA's 90.00% or higher, based on a determined percentage of athletes)

- Boys Cross Country - Coach Dave Swift
- Girls Cross Country - Coach Dave Swift
- Girls Field Hockey - Coach Geri Vasely
- Boys Golf - Coach Keith Humphrey
- Boys Soccer - Coach Manny Blanco
- Girls Soccer - Coach Mike Corbett
- Girls Tennis - Coach Jackie Klein
- Girls Volleyball - Coach Cassi Diamond

**Congratulations!**

### 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](mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org)

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:

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

### Vision:

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