



# What's Right with Spackenkill!

December 23, 2016

**Spackenkill Union Free School District**

A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Staff,

Music is in the air at Spackenkill! What a great season of performances from Nassau and Hagan to Todd and the High School, and then again with carolers and ensemble groups throughout the schools. The holiday spirit is definitely alive and well in the district. Please enjoy the great photos captured throughout this holiday issue of *What's Right with Spackenkill*, and most of all enjoy this special time with year.

Shout-outs to Coach Manny Blanco and Jake Kaufman, who were named Soccer Coach of the Year and Soccer Offensive Player of the Year! We're also so very proud of Coach Clinton DeSouza and our Football Team for their awards ceremony recognizing Joseph Arcuri, Kyiev Bennermon, Ryan Devenny, and Camron Abalos, Of course, good food always unites us as a school community, as both our GSA students enjoy their cookies and cocoa gathering and our high school custodians beam as the Student Government thanks them for their service with a festive lunch. Finally, we have a cornucopia of holiday activities throughout the District.

Please enjoy your family time. See you in 2017!

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.  
Interim/Acting Superintendent

## Scenes from the Middle School and High School Winter Concerts



*Top row: Middle school orchestra, chorus, and band students all excelled this season. Below: High school String Ensemble, directed by Marissa Kaczynski, earned raves.*



*Above: High school Women's Choir, accompanied by Susan Guse and directed by Julie Carter, did a wonderful job.*



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# What's Right with Spackenkill!

## Elementary Music Program Celebrates the Holidays



At the Hagan in-school concert on December 15, Concert Band (left) and Gold Strings (right) put on stellar performances. Below left: Mrs. Burgess led the Concert Band in several holiday favorites. Below right: The Gold Strings were conducted by Ms. Valentine. Awesome job!



Left and right: Nassau general music teacher Mrs. Staten conducted Second Grade Chorus students in a rendition of "This Land Is Your Land" at the in-school concert on December 22.



Left: Hagan band, chorus, and strings students visited Nassau's in-school concert to perform several selections.



Left: Led by Miss Berube at an in-school concert, Hagan Third Grade Chorus students entertained with a song about Blixen the Reindeer. Right: One of the highlights of the Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus performance was a song called "Love in Any Language."





## Football Awards

As 2016 draws to a close, the Spackenkill Football program took time out to celebrate its successes and reminisce about a great fall season. On December 13th, the program held its annual Awards Banquet, a festive gathering for both the football team and their families. Thanks to the Spackenkill Football Booster Club, the varsity and modified football players, cheerleaders, and coaches were able to enjoy a night in their honor. The night included awards for student athletes and culminated in special honors for outstanding varsity players. Eleven graduating seniors were presented with their jerseys in plaques thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

Thanks to the Administration, and especially Athletic Director Marco Lanzoni, the Board of Education, and the Football Booster Club for their support of the program. Great job as always Coach Clinton DeSouza!



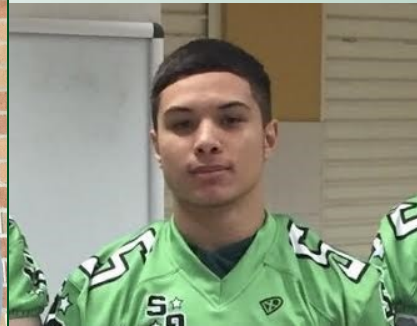
Above left: Best wishes to football award winners (left to right) Joseph Arcuri, Spartan Award, Kyiev Bennermon, Defensive MVP; and Ryan Devenny, Offensive MVP. Above right: At the Awards Dinner, Camron Abalos won for most valuable lineman. He has also been named *Poughkeepsie Journal* Quarterback of the Year.

## Soccer Stars



There's no better present during the holiday season than to be recognized for your talent and dedication. So it's fitting that Manny Blanco, *above left*, Spanish teacher at Todd Middle School, has been named Soccer Coach of the Year by the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

Kudos to Jake Kaufman, a senior at Spackenkill High School, for earning the honor Soccer Offensive Player of the Year! "Jake is one of those players I will never forget," said his coach. "His dedication to the team and our school is tremendous."





### SHS Student Government Custodian Luncheon



### GSA Holiday Party



Above left: High School Student Government revived the tradition of the holiday luncheon to thank our custodians for all they do for the students and staff. Above right: To warm up a chilly December day, GSA students from Todd Middle School and Spackenkill High School gathered with advisors Heidi Huczel, Eleanor Pupko, Tracie Phillips, and Kristen Gil to share some holiday cookies 'n cocoa. HS Principal Steve Malkischer also joined them.

### Todd Door Decorating Contest

At the Fourth Annual Todd Holiday Door Decorating Contest, there was a tie for the pizza party prize. Winners were the classrooms of Mr. Rawls (room 10), with a newsy snowman motif (right) and Mrs. Joy (room 16), with a pun theme (below). Principal Dan Doherty and Dean of Students Anchala Sobrin were joined by Interim/Acting Superintendent Dr. Mark Villanti, School Business Manager Michele Moloney, and District Clerk Nancy Melilli to judge the contest, right. We can't wait to see what they come up with next year!





Middle School Honorable Mentions went to Mrs. Hutchinson (room 24) for an Aladdin theme (right) and Mr. Karliner (room 22) for a Minecraft pixelated tree (above and left).

### High School Doors Debut

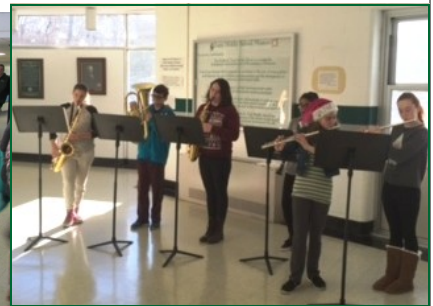
Teaching Assistant Karen Baker wanted to help spread the door decorating tradition to the high school, so she started by designing her own Minion Door (below left). It didn't take long for others to catch the spirit! Enjoy this selection of festive doors photographed by Mrs. Baker herself.



### Holiday Happenings All Through the District



Above left and middle: Mrs. Drummond's kindergarten class and Mrs. Scoralick's third grade collaborated on gingerbread house construction and decorating.  
 Above right: Nassau students shared family holiday customs. Right: Parent Mrs. Gold paid a visit to Mrs. Engle's kindergarten class to talk about Hanukkah traditions. Below right: Todd musicians serenaded in the hallways.  
 Below: Directed by Mr. Doherty on a megaphone, Todd staff caroled for students as they departed for winter recess. Below left: High School Orchestra played in the lobby to mark the culmination of Holiday Spirit Week. Left: Fourth graders read to visiting therapy dogs from Paws for a Cause. The pooches donned their festive best.



**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.