



What's Right with Spackenkill!

**Spackenkill Union Free
School District**

A tradition of excellence with a
vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Community,

We make a concerted effort to identify interesting accomplishments of students, staff, and programs in the district, and from time to time we may have more secondary or elementary activities. In this issue, we're focusing on a variety of secondary — Spackenkill High School and Todd Middle School — activities and accomplishments. On our front cover, we are proud of the work of the Math Department, and specifically Ms. Pupko, in building a culture that celebrates striving for math excellence. The Math Team is showing off their newly designed t-shirts. On page 2 we're giving a shout-out to some of our top-performing high school science students and some of their really provocative research topics. We're also quite proud of the artistry of our secondary students and of those students who recently performed at the Jr. High All-County Music Festival. I highly recommend that you attend the Middle School rendition of *Schoolhouse Rock, Jr.* It's happening this weekend on Friday and Saturday nights at 7 pm. Our students and their directors have been working really hard to put together a great performance. And, finally, we picture Todd students who are supporting the Sandy Hook Promise, which promotes social skills and the belief that no student should be isolated from his or her peers.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Math Team Members Get New Student-Designed T-Shirts



Spackenkill Math Team members model the front and back of a new t-shirt designed by student Yan Lam Ko. The shirts read, “Feels good to be a Pupko Gangster.” Some of the team members are shown above modeling their shirts with Ms. Pupko. Stay tuned for news on upcoming Math Team competitions and results.

Spackenkill Union Free School District, 15 Croft Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 845.463.7800; www.spackenkillschools.org

Science Olympiad Scores Victories

Congratulations to all Science Olympiad members for their recent wins at competitions. Science Olympiad competed against 48 other teams from all over the country at Yale on Saturday, January 21. The medals were as follows:

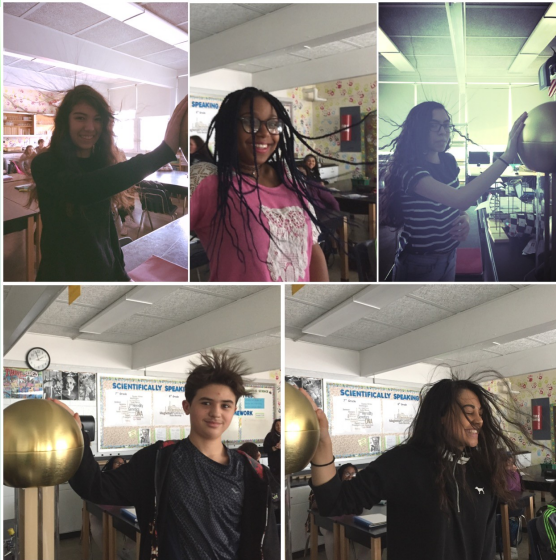
3rd, Rocks and Minerals, **Ian Horvath** and **Albert Yao**
 2nd, Chemistry Lab, **Rachel Li** and **Vincent Li**
 3rd, Disease Detective, **Susan Gong** and **Cynthia Ma**
 3rd, Ecology, **Anshuman Swain** and **Jessica Cohen**
 2nd, New Hydrogeology, **Jacqueline Hannan** and **Eileen Gao**
 3rd, Experimental Design, **Anubhav Shankar**, **Jacqueline Hannan**, and **Leona Lau**
 2nd, Material Science, **Anubhav Shankar** and **Vincent Li**

At the Science Olympiad Columbia Invitational Competition on January 7 at Columbia High School in East Greenbush, New York, the A Team won 2nd Place Overall (versus 33 teams). The following is a list of individual medal winners:

1st, Dynamic Planet, **Andrew Wu** and **Zachary Johnson**
 1st, Hydrogeology, **Jacqueline Hannan** and **Eileen Gao**
 1st, Rocks and Minerals, **Vincent Li** and **Rachel Li**
 1st, Materials Science, **Vincent Li** and **Anubhav Shankar**
 2nd, Anatomy and Physiology, **Anya Justin** and **Sneha Kamada**
 2nd, Chemistry Lab, **Vincent Li** and **Tomas Herrera**
 2nd, Fermi Questions. **Jeremy Webster** and **Albert Yao**
 2nd, Game On, **Andrew Wu** and **Zachary Johnson**
 2nd, Invasive Species, **Jacqueline Hannan** and **Rachel Li**
 2nd, Microbes, **Susan Gong** and **Jeana Chun**
 3rd, Disease Detective, **Cynthia Ma** and **Susan Gong**
 3rd, Robot, **Tomas Herrera** and **Nyi-Rein Kyaw**

Hands-on Science Lesson

Science classes of Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Walsh at Todd recently had an electrifying time experimenting with the Van de Graaff generator. The device creates a lot of static electricity, as is evident in the photos at right!



District Music Students Perform at Jr. High All-County Music Fest



On January 27 to 28, students from both Todd Middle School and the High School joined talented peers at the Dutchess County Music Educators Association Junior High All-County Music Festival.

Students were selected from hundreds of applicants in grades 7 to 9 to participate in Choir, Concert Band, and Orchestra.

After two days of intensive rehearsal with students from other area schools, students performed at a concert on Saturday, January 28 at

Dover High School. The Spackenkill District sent the following 19 students to the festival:

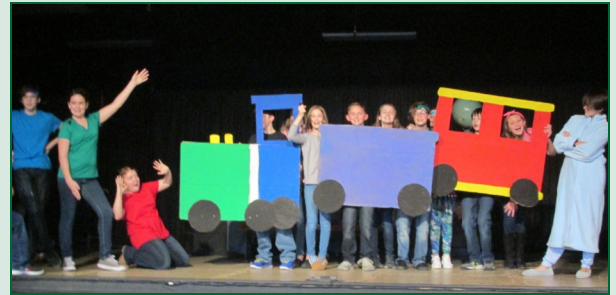
Eliza Gifford, Robert DeLaurentis, Johnny Mulcahy, Leo Herrera, Baylee Kramer, Cecelia Kim, Nitya Upadhyayula, Anikha Justin, Xavier Nohara, Caitlin Facci, Amalia Work, Andrew Chun, Emily Cohen, Emily Jea, Emily Ma, Abigail Straus, Shinrea Su, Eric Sung, and Alex Zhu. Kudos to these students for their achievement of musical excellence!



Don't Miss Todd Drama Production



This weekend, *Schoolhouse Rock, Jr.* takes the stage at Orville A. Todd Middle School. Cast and crew have been busy for weeks preparing for this show. Photos above and right capture the cast in rehearsal. Advisors/directors Heidi Mills, Jonathan Shanks, and Debbie Winnis have done a wonderful job working with the students. They sound amazing! Performances are Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Students and senior citizens are \$3 each.



Students Send Positive Message at Middle School



From February 6 through 10, students at Todd Middle School participated in Start With Hello Week, which raises awareness of social isolation in schools and communities. It is an outgrowth of The Sandy Hook Promise. Todd's Club Alliance pushed into lunch periods to talk with students about the purpose of the week. Students received bracelets and stickers to remind them to "Start With Hello" and help others feel included. School Social Worker Tracie Phillips and School Counselor Kristen Gil implemented the program. *Above left:* Mrs. Phillips is pictured handing out materials to students. *Above middle:* Sticker reminds all of us to respect and acknowledge others. *Above right:* Mrs. Gil visited lunch tables on Monday.

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/district_newsletter_archive

Vision:

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