



What's Right with Spackenkill!

January 6, 2017

Spackenkill Union Free School District

A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Our first 2017 edition of *What's Right with Spackenkill!* salutes brain power, serving the community, and gratefulness for the community partnerships that support our school district. I know that the High School is exceptionally proud of our senior class, who have worked very hard during their 12 years in the district and are now reaping their rewards through college acceptances. Congratulations, senior class! In addition, our math students at the High School are excelling through competitions, challenging themselves to get better. Of course, service is all over the school district, from elementary teacher Brian Alwick to the Girls Basketball Team to the LEO Club. Let's not forget service peer to peer, as our sixth graders read original works to our kindergarten students. Finally, we appreciate the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for educating our Todd staff.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Interim/Acting Superintendent

HS Senior Up for Prestigious Award



Above: SHS Principal Steve Malkischer and Guidance Counselor Kathleen DeFreest congratulate senior Vincent Li on becoming a semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program.

Senior **Vincent Li** has been selected as a Semifinalist in the 2016-17 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Vincent moved from a field of some 86,000 applicants to a pool of 1,914 semifinalists. He was nominated by guidance counselor Katherine DeFreest for his outstanding leadership, academic achievements, and dedication to community. After a review of the applications by a committee, 250 Semifinalists will advance as Regional Finalists, with 150 becoming Coca-Cola Scholars and recipients of scholarships.

Hagan Teacher to Be Honored

Hagan Elementary teacher **Brian Alwick** and his family will be honored for their longtime contributions to the Claudio Cares Foundation at its 4th Annual Snowflake Gala on February 10. Other annual fundraisers by the organization include Stuff the Bus/Claudio Cares Can Drive, Claudio Cares Car Show, and Golf Tournament.



Above: Brian Alwick (background) assists students during a recent can drive.

The foundation's main purpose and goal is to inspire young adults to achieve and earn greatness and to help them realize immediate and lasting changes in their lives and in the lives of others. Claudio Cares has awarded numerous scholarships to graduating seniors in every

district in Dutchess County and donated complete computer labs to several local schools. Kudos to the Alwick family for their dedicated service.

For more information about the foundation please visit:

<http://www.claudiocares.com/>

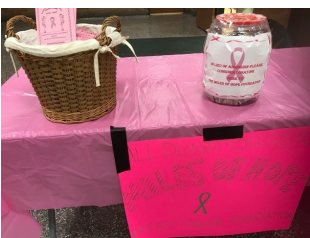
Spackenkill Union Free School District, 15 Croft Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 Phone: 845-463-7800
Fax: 845-463-7804
www.spackenkillschools.org

Girls Basketball Plays for a Cause



Above: Kudos to Coach Neise and Noelle Mancini, who was named to the Holiday Classic All-Tournament Team.

The Spackenkill Girls Basketball Team played on December 30 in the Holiday Classic Tournament to benefit Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. Don Neise, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, coordinated another successful two-day event, which took place on December 27 at Highland HS and December 30 at Spackenkill. In addition to Spackenkill and Highland, the following teams participated: Beacon, FDR, Pine Plains, John Jay, Arlington, and Millbrook. Donations were collected at both sites for Miles of Hope.



Left: Donation table at the Holiday Classic Tournament raises money for Miles of Hope.

College Acceptances Keep Rolling In

Our high school guidance counselors report that our seniors continue to receive college acceptances. Here are the latest, in alphabetical order. Stay tuned for more:

Binghamton University	Business)
Binghamton University (School of Management)	Ohio Northern University
Binghamton University (Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science)	Ohio University
Buffalo State College of SUNY	Rider University
Culinary Institute of America	Sage College of Albany
D'Youville College	State University of New York at Albany
University of Delaware	SUNY Alfred State College
Hartwick College	SUNY College at Brockport
Harvard University	SUNY College at Cortland
Johns Hopkins University (School of Engineering)	SUNY College at Oneonta
Keuka College	SUNY College at Potsdam
Marist College	The University of Texas, Dallas
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	The Ohio State University
University of Michigan (Engineering)	University at Buffalo The State University of New York
Mount Saint Mary College	West Virginia University
Northeastern University (College of Engineering)	Widener University
Northeastern University (D'Amore-McKim School of	

LEO Club Wraps Up 2016

This past holiday season, LEO Club supported 20 families (60 children)

with necessities like coats and boots as well as many fun gifts. The Town of Poughkeepsie PBA supported the efforts with boxes of food, while our nurses and social workers went above and beyond and worked quickly to determine the needs of our families. LEO Club and the PBA were recently mentioned in an article in the *Southern Dutchess News* as well as on Hudson Valley News Network. [Please click this link to read the story](https://goo.gl/WdWtPj) or visit <https://goo.gl/WdWtPj>



Left: LEO Club members and district staff gather to celebrate accomplishments in helping others in 2016.

NYML Results

The New York Mathematics League (NYML) results are in: Congratulations to **Anya Justin**, who had the only perfect score of 6 in the NYML contest. **Vincent Li** and **Leah Mozeshtam** each scored 5, while **Jean Chun**, **Zachary Johnson**, **Sneha Kamada**, **Rachel Li**, **Adele Long**, **Cynthia Ma**, **Anshuman Swain**, **Robert Waxman** and **Andrew Wu** each scored 4.

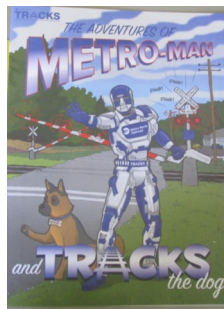
CF Team Presents to MS Staff



On Tuesday, January 3, local health officials visited with staff at Todd Middle School to raise Cystic Fibrosis (CF) awareness.

Katie Lynch, *standing above right*, Development Manager, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of White Plains, was joined by Amy Brown, *standing above left*, a nurse from Vassar Brothers Medical Center, to speak to staff about the challenges of living with CF. Thank you to Todd Nurse Elizabeth Giancaspro for arranging the informational talk.

Nassau Train Safety Presentation



Students at Nassau attended a fun and informative Train Safety Presentation on Friday, January 6. It was led by Allison Lester, *above left*, a former conductor with Metro-North who now leads safety presentations. The students learned about what to do at a railroad crossing, where to stand on a train platform, and what precautions to take near tracks. They also identified signs and their meanings. As a bonus, the students were the first to receive a new coloring book featuring mascots Metro-Man and Tracks the Dog, *above right*.

Todd Winter Wonderland



Todd Middle School students celebrated the holidays on the last day before the break (December 23) with a Winter Wonderland celebration in the gymnasium. Thank you to Todd Student Government and Advisor Norma Vazquez for putting on this special event.

Above: Todd Winter Wonderland transformed the gym into a holiday fantasy.

6th Graders Read to Kindergartners

Sixth grade ELA students from Mrs. Travis's class read original picture books they wrote to students in the kindergarten classes of Mrs. West, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Engle, and Mrs. Davis on Thursday, January 5.

The stories share the theme that anyone can be a hero. This past November, students read their books to visiting preschoolers from the Mid-Hudson Early Education Center. "The stories were so well received and students were so enthusiastic that we wanted to share them with more students in our community!" said Mrs. Travis. Mrs. Sobrin, Mrs. Camburn, and Mrs. Cunningham also joined the students on the trip.



Above: Mrs. Drummond greeted one of her former kindergarten students, now in sixth grade.

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.