

Please see these community flyers that might be of interest:

[Sparrow's Nest Fundraiser](#)

[Summer Arts Camp](#)

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|  | <p><i>What's Right with Spackenkill!</i></p> <p><i>March 17, 2017</i></p> | <p><i>A tradition of excellence with a vision for tomorrow</i></p> |
| <p>Dear Spackenkill Community,</p> <p>Happy St. Patrick's Day. I'm wearing my green tie today! I want to begin by recognizing the district for several years in a row receiving the Utica National Insurance honor for excellence in safety. So many people are responsible for this award, and I'm grateful for having accepted the honor on behalf of the district. As I review some of the classroom achievements in this issue, I am especially moved by the National Art Honor Society Memory Project. Mr. Romani and the art students have made a heartfelt connection to these neglected children. I think we're ready for spring after this recent snowstorm. Let's hopefully put the shovels away after this weekend and have a great remainder of the school year and warmer weather!</p> | | |
| <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Mark Villanti, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools</p> | | |
|  | | |

Spackenkill Receives Safety Award for Fifth Consecutive Year



For the fifth consecutive year, the Spackenkill Union Free School District has won the Utica National Insurance Group's School Safety Excellence Award, titanium level, the highest distinction. The honor recognizes the school district's efforts as we work to keep students, staff, and visitors safe. At a safety presentation event on March 13, Dr. Mark Villanti, Superintendent of Schools,



accepted a certificate to commemorate the safety efforts and a \$500 award for use in furthering those efforts.

Congratulations to all district employees for having a role in this award, especially Michele Moloney, School Business Manager; and Chris Hamel, SRO; and the entire District Safety Committee.

Jonathan Shanks Earns Tenure



Congratulations to Jonathan Shanks of Todd Middle School for his tenure appointment in secondary English, presented at the Board meeting on March 13. As TMS Principal Dan Doherty wrote in his recommendation, "Mr. Shanks is an outstanding teacher. His pedagogy and understanding of English content and practices are excellent. His rapport with students is highly engaging and focused."

Mrs. Chaoussoglou-Rotter of the High School Guidance Department gives us this update on college acceptances.

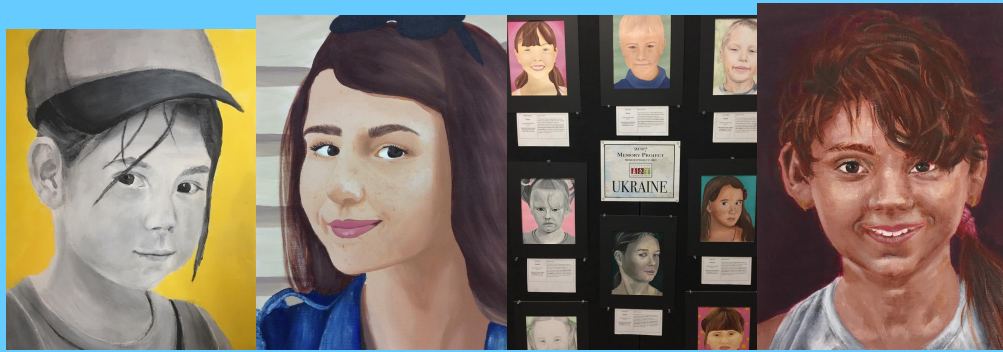
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| Alvernia University | Rider University |
| Binghamton University | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| Binghamton University (School of Management) | Sage College of Albany |
| Binghamton University (Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science) | Saint Leo University |
| Boston University | Springfield College |
| Clarkson University | State University of New York at Albany |
| Culinary Institute of America | Stony Brook University |
| Dutchess Community College | SUNY Alfred State College |
| D'Youville College | SUNY Buffalo State College |
| Five Towns College | SUNY College at Brockport |
| Georgia Institute of Technology | SUNY College at Cortland |
| Hartwick College | SUNY College at Oneonta |
| Harvard University | SUNY College at Potsdam |
| Hofstra University | SUNY Oswego |
| Johns Hopkins University (School of Engineering) | The Ohio State University |
| Keuka College | The University of Texas, Dallas |
| Marist College | University at Buffalo The State University of New York |
| Millersville University of Pennsylvania | University of Delaware |
| Mount Saint Mary College | University of Louisville |
| Northeastern University (College of Engineering) | University of Massachusetts, Amherst |
| Northeastern University (D'Amore-McKim School of Business) | University of Michigan (Engineering) |
| Ohio Northern University | University of Rhode Island |
| Ohio University | Utica College |
| Quinnipiac University | West Virginia University |
| | Widener University |

National Art Honor Society Presents the Memory Project

The Memory Project is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children and teens around the world who have been neglected, orphaned, or disadvantaged. Given that kids in such situations tend to have few personal keepsakes, The Spackenkill National Art Honor Society, advised by Roberto

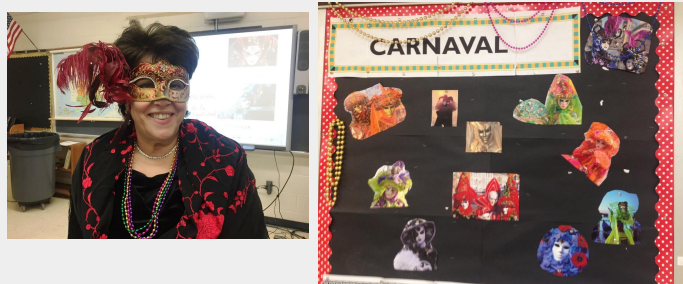
Romani aims to provide them with special memories that capture a piece of their childhood, portable pieces of their personal history. As much as possible, the goal is to help the kids see themselves as works of art.

To do this, art students receive photos of kids on our waiting list and then work in any medium to create the portraits (drawing, painting, digital art, collage, etc). Next, memoryproject.org delivers the portraits to the kids as gifts. They take photos of the kids holding the portraits so the art students can see the delivery in action. This year's theme is the Ukraine, and photos of students' work follow. [Please click here for the donation form to support this initiative.](#)



Students Celebrate Carnival

In Elaine Moss's Spanish class, students recently studied and celebrated the tradition of Carnival. Students dressed up as famous characters from Spanish culture, such as Don Quixote, and explained their significance. They also enjoyed Spanish-themed foods, including queso manchego and tortillas with all the trimmings.



Therapy Dogs Visit Todd

A huge thank you to Positive Paws who brought their therapy dogs, Shasta and Dexter, to meet with a group of 8th grade students!



Kudos to Odyssey of the Mind Participants

The Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament was Saturday, March 4th in Goshen

The results of our Spackenkill Elementary and Todd teams are as follows:

*3rd grade **10th** To Be Continued: A Super Hero Cliffhanger Division 1*

*4th grade **2nd** It's Time, Omer Division 1*

*5th grade **2nd** Ready, Set, Balsa, Build! Division 1*

*Todd structure team **2nd** Ready, Set, Balsa, Build! Division 2*

*Todd skit team **7th** To Be Continued: Super Hero Cliffhanger Division 2*

Congratulations to Elementary Coaches Simona Cohen, Laura Conte, and David Nohara and Todd Coach Anthony Colon.

Photos from an elementary team performance at Hagan on March 17 follow:



Above, left to right: The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade OM teams perform skits. The 5th grade team had to build a weight-bearing structure using balsa wood and glue. At the competition in Goshen, their structure held 255 pounds. Below: The teams with their advisors: Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Conte, and Mr. Nohara.



Marist Volleyball Team Mentors Hagan Girls

For five Mondays from February to April, the Marist Girls Volleyball Team, a Division 1 Team, have been coming to Hagan Elementary School to mentor fourth and fifth graders. The goal of the program is to teach the girls homework tips and how to balance work and sports. The first session on February 27 involved a getting to know each other Q-and-A session, followed by homework time and then a volleyball game in the gym, where Marist athletes gave the girls practical pointers on techniques like forearm passing and setting, as well as lessons in good sportsmanship. PE Teacher Lisa Papo orchestrates the program.

Photos from the first visit are below.



PTA Celebrations Brighten Winter Days

The elementary schools were treated to two celebrations from the Spackenkill Elementary PTA.

Students enjoyed cocoa and cider to celebrate the success of the Boxtops drive. They also had a fun dance party at the Crown Heights Community Center on Nassau Road in honor of PARP (Pick a Reading Partner). Students dressed up as storybook characters and had a blast. Some scenes are below:





Jump Rope for Heart Energizes PE Classes



During February elementary students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart Program to help raise money for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association helps to fight heart disease and strokes through research and education programs. All the students were asked to get donations from family and friends before the event. Students went through different stations during physical education classes and learned about the benefits of maintaining a healthy heart and why it is important to remain healthy through exercise and eating the right foods. Photos of Mrs. Spiegel's PE classes at Nassau getting their workouts are below. The school raised \$4,200!



Parent Brings Hour of Code to Nassau



On February 28, Mrs. Zanca's 2nd grade class participated in Hour of Code with visiting parent Mr. Giorgio. The students worked on progressively more challenging levels of coding. Thank you, Mr. Giorgio, for visiting and sharing this website for students who want to code for fun: <https://studio.code.org/s/mc/stage/1/puzzle/1>

March 17 is not only St. Patrick's Day, but also Sparrow's Nest Day, in honor of the charity helping local families. Nassau staff proudly "wore the green" to show their support.



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spackenkillschools.org

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.

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

Please submit story ideas to

mary.forsell@sufsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the [Spackenkill website:](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive)
www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive



