

Please see flyer(s) below that might be of interest:

[Football Booster Club Fundraiser](#)

[Cheer Fundraiser](#)



*What's Right with  
Spackenkill!*

*March 16, 2018*

*A tradition of excellence  
with a vision for  
tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

This week I made the decision for school to stay open on a delayed schedule when almost all of the schools in our area were closing. It is important to realize that Spackenkill's weather may be different from that of other districts. Safety is my most important consideration, but I also do not like to close school if it's avoidable. You as a community have been supportive of my decisions and I am most appreciative.

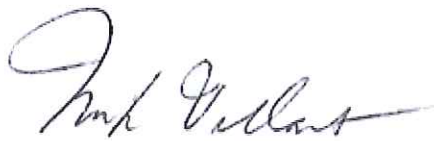
We are living in a very stressful time for so many reasons, but on a personal level when I visit our schools it's almost always an energy creator for me. The photos that Mary Forsell takes and posts in our newsletter are fairly representative of what it is like in our classrooms and special subject areas.

Today, I attended the St. Patrick's celebration of Mrs. Davis and Ms. Gomez's first grade class. Earlier this week I also visited Mrs. Scoralick and Ms. Drummond's cross-grade leprechaun project, and what good times I had! Spend a few minutes in an elementary school classroom and you can't help smiling and feeling energized.

A "tip of the cap" to our math team, our senior class and their hard-earned college acceptances, art show exhibitors, music department, Todd Odyssey of the Mind team, and sixth grade team. Hope to see many of you tonight at the PTA Harlem Wizards fundraiser!

My best,





**Mark Villanti, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

## **Chamber Music Ensemble Inspires Students**

**PROJECT Trio, a chamber music ensemble, visited the district last Tuesday for a full day of performances and rehearsals. The group is comprised of three composers/performers: Greg Pattillo, flute; Eric Stephenson, cello; and Peter Seymour, bass. Performing over 70 concerts a year, the musicians made their debut at Carnegie Hall in 2010 and have played with a number of symphony orchestras. They been featured on National Public Radio, and their music can be heard on several commercials. The three met in the late 90s at the Cleveland Institute of Music, a classical music conservatory.**

**After an inspirational performance at Hagan, which included a demonstration of "beatbox flute," the group headed to the high school to rehearse with band, chorus, and orchestra members. They played for and with the students, giving them tips on how to improve their work by adding movement, liveliness, and showmanship, and also offered advice on how to pursue a career in music.**

**"I loved playing in my larger ensemble in high school, but I also wanted to find ways to play outside of school," said Mr. Seymour. "Start coming up with your own little jams. They start from the simplest things and by building things on top of it you are instantly writing music, and who knows where it might take you?" At a concert that evening, the students gave dynamic performances that reflected all their hard work that day.**





## ***Spack Impresses at DUSO Sectionals***

**Congratulations to the Mathematics Team for their strong showing at Sectionals! Twenty teams competed for the title in the four-county DUSO League. The A Team arrived at Vassar College in a strong position, having won the Section E division by 26 points and just missing first place in the whole league by one point. At the end of the Sectionals competition Spackenkill A was tied with Arlington A, each with 16 points, while Spack B**



and Spack C were right behind, each with 15 points.

Unfortunately, Spackenkill A lost the tie breaker and came in second place in the Sectional Competition. *A special shout-out goes to Andrew Wu, who was recognized for being the only student out of 100-plus to successfully solve question 4!*

In the Section E division Spack A was first, Spack B was second, Spack C was fifth, and Spack D was eighth. Nice work all around!

## ***College Acceptance Update***

Students have been accepted to even more schools since our last update. Please see the list below. Students, please let your guidance counselor know if you have any acceptances that need to be added to the list!

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Amherst College  
Babson College  
Boston College  
Bryant University  
Champlain College  
Clarkson University  
Columbia University Pre-Medical Program  
Cornell University  
Drexel University  
Dutchess Community College  
D'Youville College  
Elmira College  
Elon University  
Fairfield University  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Fordham University  
Fordham University (Fordham College at Rose Hill)  
George Mason University



**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**Goucher College**  
**Hartwick College**  
**High Point University**  
**Hofstra University**  
**Iona College**  
**Ithaca College**  
**James Madison University**  
**Johnson & Wales University (Charlotte)**  
**Johnson & Wales University (North Miami)**  
**Johnson & Wales University (Providence)**  
**Le Moyne College**  
**Lebanon Valley College**  
**Lehigh University**  
**Liberty University**  
**Loyola University Maryland**  
**Macalester College**  
**Manhattan College**  
**Manhattanville College**  
**Marist College**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
**Mercy College**  
**Moravian College**  
**Mount Saint Mary College**  
**New England College**  
**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**New York Institute of Technology**  
**Northeastern University**  
**Nova Southeastern University**  
**NYIT School of Osteopathic Medicine (BS/DO Program)**  
**Pace University, New York City**  
**Penn State (University Park)**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**Providence College**  
**Queens College of the CUNY**  
**Quinnipiac University**  
**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**  
**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute/Albany Medical College**  
**Ringling College of Art and Design**  
**Rochester Institute of Technology**



**Roger Williams University**  
**Sacred Heart University**  
**Saint Leo University**  
**Saint Michael's College**  
**Saint Olaf College**  
**Salisbury University**  
**Savannah College of Art and Design**  
**School of Visual Arts**  
**Siena College**  
**Smith College**  
**St. Bonaventure University**  
**St. John Fisher College**  
**St. John's University - Queens Campus**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas College**  
**State University of New York at Albany**  
**Stony Brook University**  
**Suffolk University**  
**SUNY Alfred State College**  
**SUNY Binghamton**  
**SUNY Buffalo State College**  
**SUNY College at Brockport**  
**SUNY College at Cortland**  
**SUNY College at Oneonta**  
**SUNY Delhi**  
**SUNY Fredonia**  
**SUNY New Paltz**  
**SUNY Oswego**  
**SUNY Plattsburgh**  
**Temple University**  
**The College of Saint Rose**  
**The New School - All Divisions**  
**The University of Texas, San Antonio**  
**University at Buffalo The State University of New York**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**University of Delaware**  
**University of Hartford**  
**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**  
**University of Miami**  
**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**  
**University of New Haven**



University of North Carolina at Asheville  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Utica College  
Villanova University  
Washington College  
West Virginia University  
Western New England University  
Wingate University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University  
York College of Pennsylvania

## ***Harlem Wizards Fundraiser to Benefit Schools***

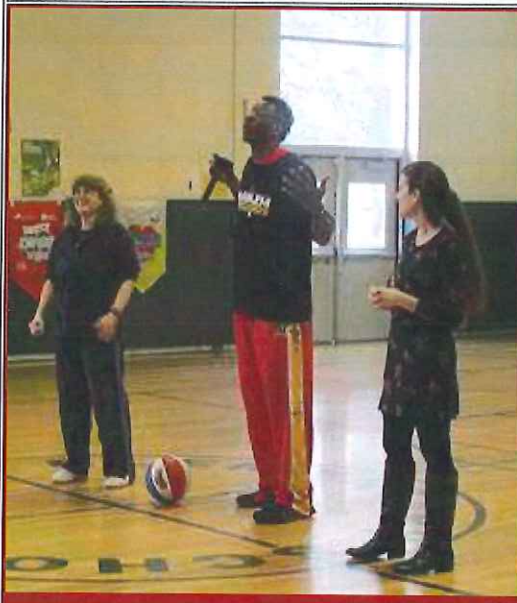
John Smith (aka "Big J") from the Harlem Wizards visited Nassau, Hagan, and Todd on Wednesday to spread the word about the PTA/PTSA fundraiser game on Friday night at 7 pm at Spackenkill High School. The Wizards will take on the Spackenkill Dream Team, comprised of staff! Big J, who stands 6 feet, eight inches tall and wears a size 18 shoe, did a few basketball tricks for students and spoke to them about how this fundraiser benefits the district. "Your teachers are here to educate you, and on Friday they will entertain you," he said. At the assemblies, Big J interacted with students at each school, and staff who are playing this Friday came out of the audience to meet him. One player to watch is Todd head custodian Colin Burgess, who also stands 6 feet, 8 inches and used to play basketball. Expect giveaways and lot of laughs at this worthy fundraiser.

[Please click on this link to order tickets.](#)





**Big J (far right) with a Todd student and Colin Burgess, who will be playing Friday night.**



**Big J with Nassau teachers and Dream Team members Carrie Spiegel and Daniele Wilcox.**



**Todd student performs a trick for an 8th grade audience.**





## ***Health Tip: Benefits of Hand-Washing***



[Spackenkill High School Nurse Joan Dwyer shared this link about the benefits of hand-washing. Please click here to access the story.](#)

## ***Pi Day Serves Up Math-themed Fun***

Todd observed Pi Day on March 14th. Sixth grade students engaged in numerous Pi Day activities, including: Circles Are All Around Us! (pi is the ratio  $C:d$ , circumference to diameter); Creating Pi-Scapes (graphing the digits of pi); Compass Creations (learning how to use tools associated with circular objects) Creating and Performing Original Pi Parodies; Can You Hula Hoop For 3.14 Minutes or More?; How Close Can You Come to Pi? (measuring the circumference and diameter of circles to create the quotient for the ratio of  $C:d$ ), and Archimedes Circle Drawing Contest To round out the circle theme, parents contributed a slew of tasty pies and the students also enjoyed pizza. Some images are below.



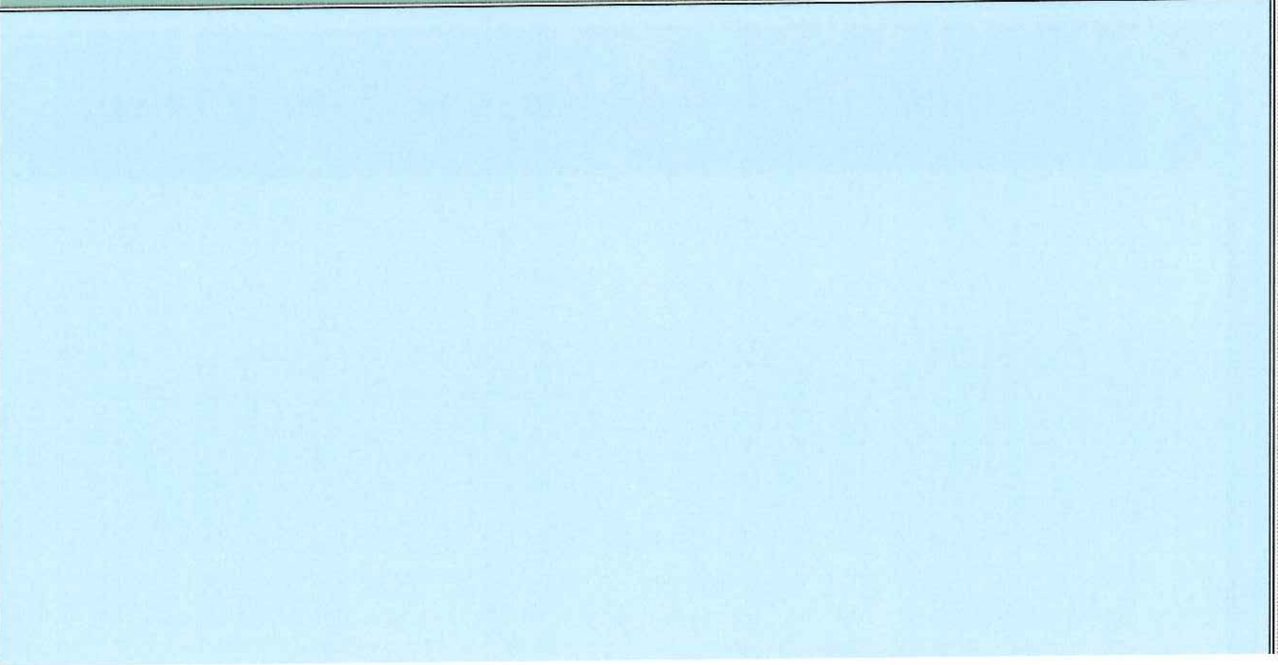


*Todd Supports Sparrow's Nest!*





***Middle School OM Team Going Strong***







On March 10, 2018 Todd Middle School participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition in Goshen. The students competed in the structure problem titled "Animal House". A team member built a structure weighing 15 grams and performed a skit for 8 minutes. Their structure held 337 pounds and their skit had the audience laughing. This year's team placed 3rd in the competition. Congratulations!

## *All-County Festival Showcases Musical Talent*





On Saturday, March 10, the Dutchess County Music Educators Association (DCMEA) presented the Elementary All-County Festival at Arthur S. May Elementary School. The following students performed:

#### Todd Middle School

Alyssa DeLaurentis (orchestra), Ryan Freedman (orchestra), Daniel Jea (orchestra), Angelina Kim (orchestra), Andy Zhu (orchestra), Julia DeLaurentis (chorus), Nicholas Weibrecht (chorus), Matthew Darcy (band), Marlena DeLaurentis (band).

#### Hagan Elementary School

Thit-Sar Kyaw (orchestra), Effie Thomas (orchestra), Jacqueline Gill (orchestra), Katie Park (orchestra), Isabella McDermott (chorus), Graciela Wray Rivera (chorus)

### **SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI:** **Michelle (Fleischman) Milligan**

Guest-conducting the DCMEA Elementary All-County Orchestra was class of 2007 alumnus Michelle (Fleischman) Milligan, coming full circle from when she first was a performer in the group in 2000. Among her past music teachers at Spackenkill are Kim Valentine and Marissa Kaczynski. Mrs. Milligan is currently the orchestra director at Robert Frost Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia.





[Read a full bio of Mrs. Milligan in the program by clicking here.](#)

We asked Mrs. Milligan about her Spackenkill experiences:

**Q:** Do you remember any particular moments at Spackenkill that inspired you?

**A:** There were so many inspirational moments, from conducting *Into the Woods*, to performing in the Prisms concert, and our senior solos! The most memorable moment in orchestra was probably performing *Spider Dreams*, and Ms. Kaczynski played with us. A really challenging piece, but we had so much fun performing it! The most important thing I remember about Spackenkill was being a part of something that was such a close family. The music program at Spackenkill is much smaller than the music program that I teach in now, but I strive to make every student in my program now feel as much a part of our program as I felt when I was in the program at Spackenkill. This is true not only for the music program, but my involvement in Spackenkill as a whole. It is such a blessing to have grown-up in such a small school district where I felt like my teachers were always really invested in my success, and inspired us to be better students.





*Mrs. Milligan surrounded by All-County Orchestra students.*

## *Nassau Celebrates Music In Our Schools Month*



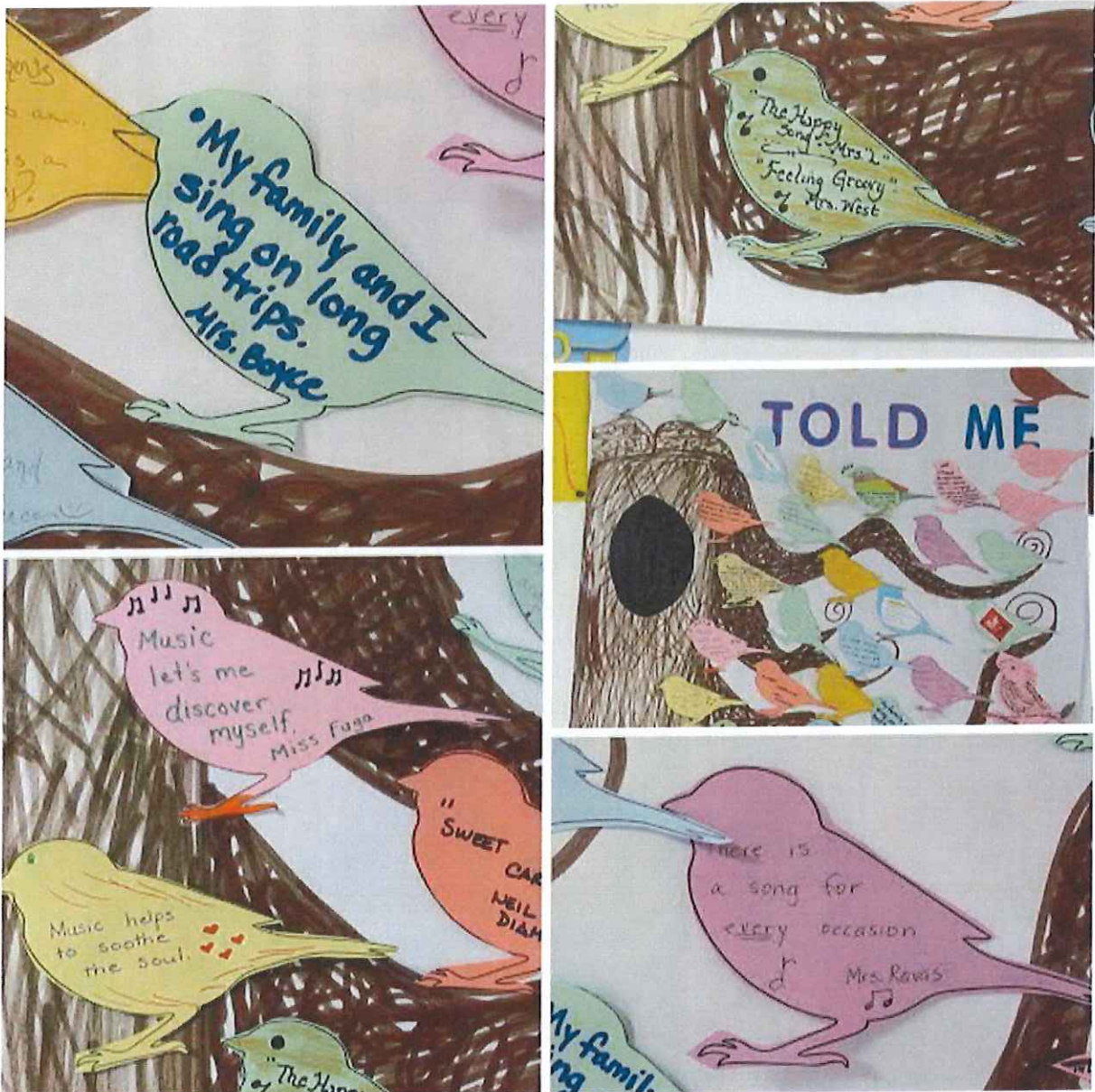
March is Music in Our Schools Month, a celebration of the importance and benefits of music education. On March 10, Mr. Andreas held Music with Mr. A, an early childhood music class for ages four and under in his classroom. Many families brought their children and grandchildren to the event.





**Above: Scenes of families enjoying Music with Mr. A day at Nassau.**





Above: For Music in Our Schools Month, Mr. Andreas placed small bird pictures in teachers' mailboxes on which he asked them to write a fun musical fact about themselves. It can be what makes you musical, your favorite song, or whatever connection you have or had with music! Then he made a display outside his classroom on a bulletin board titled "A Little Bird Told Me."

**Young Artists Show Their Work**





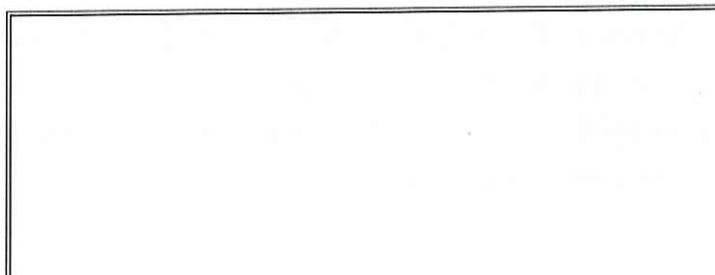
Enjoy some scenes (*above*) from the John Iyoya Art Show opening reception at Vassar College last weekend. Elementary and middle school families came out to support their artists.

To Catch a Leprechaun...





**Students from Ms. Drummond's kindergarten class and Mrs. Scoralick's third grade collaborated on leprechaun traps on Monday at Nassau. Working together, the classes built elaborate creations with chutes, ladders, secret passageways, and amenities like swimming pools to lure little people.**







*Mrs. Strapec's class at Nassau wishes everyone a lucky day!*

15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY

(845) 463-7800

**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](mailto: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](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive)





