



*What's Right with
Spackenkill!*

May 25, 2018

*A tradition of
excellence with a vision
for tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I have had the pleasure of attending most of the district's concerts for Hagan, Todd, and the High School during the past two weeks. They have all been extraordinary! Wednesday's high school concert was stunning not only musically, but emotionally. Mr. Malkischer and I talked the next morning and never in our careers have we ever left a concert feeling so proud of our teachers, students, and families in attendance. Why, you may ask? For many reasons is the simple answer. The musical performances are always excellent, but two elements made Wednesday's concert different. The heartfelt gratitude expressed by our student musicians and choristers for their teachers—and especially Ms. Carter during her final concert as she prepares for retirement—was moving. Listening to the entire orchestra play on stage with the chorus and 20 alumni in the final performance, which resulted in a standing ovation from our families, left all in attendance with a profound emotional experience.

Remember, school is closed on Monday in remembrance of the past servicemen and women who died serving our country in the Armed Forces. Thank you.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Villanti".

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ISEF Finalists Take Home Awards



We are pleased to announce that Jessica Cohen earned 4th place in Physical Science and Rachel Li and partners earned 2nd place for a group at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) last week! Each year more than approximately 1,800 student finalists earn the right to attend ISEF, the world's largest international pre-college science competition, as a result of winning an Intel ISEF-affiliated fair at a local, regional, or national level.

During the fair, the students attended symposia

and a panel on innovation and entrepreneurship. Finalists compete on average for \$4 million in awards and prizes and are judged on their creative ability and scientific thought, as well as the thoroughness, skill, and clarity shown in their projects.

MHAL Scholar-Athletes Honored



Congratulations to Corrado Mazzarelli and Jeana Chun for being named the 2018 Mid-Hudson Athletic League (MHAL) Senior Scholar Athletes from Spackenkill! At a breakfast at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on May 21st, the two were recognized for their achievements.

[Please click here to read about each scholar-athlete.](#)

Top Chemistry Scorers



We are pleased to announce that Rachel Li and Jeremy Webster recently competed in the National Examination for the Chemistry Olympiad, sponsored by the American Chemical Society.

Spackenkill had six students qualify, but only the top two scorers were permitted to compete. Nationally, about 1,000 students competed. Rachel achieved Honors Level, which places her in the top 144 students in the United States!

Spackenkill High School Science Research Symposium

**May 29 at 6:00
in the Auditorium**



Presenters: Vasvi Bhutani Jeana Chun Jessica Cohen
Sharon Devlin Isabel Hammond Anya Justin Nyi-rein Kyaw
Rachel Li Adele Long Ian Nevers Alexandar Ristic Shinyee Su

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Justin Hulbert
Bard College**

Junior Achievement Awards



Kudos to the SHS juniors who received awards for various achievements in a ceremony on May 22nd in the Black Box Theater. The following students are pictured above:

Bottom row left to right: Sneha Kamada, Mia Eng-Kohn, Ariella Hyman-Fessler, and Zackary Heraghty.

Middle row left to right: Ornella Al-Sayah, Rachel Li, Jacob Ruppert, and Evan Habert.

Top row left to right: Jonathan Waxman and Ian Horvath.

[Please click here to read a list of awards](#)

Golf Champ!



Congratulations to Erik Stauderman for winning the Section IX Golf Championship! Erik shot a 75 at West Hills C.C. and a 72 at Casperkill to win the tournament by 1 stroke. With the win he also qualifies for the NYS Tournament, which is held in June at Cornell University.

Volunteers Help Children



Last Friday, members of the Spackenkill community volunteered at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. Among the projects they completed were mulching, planting, building an outdoor stage for children's performances, and making raised planter gardens. Pictured are students Avery Rossman, Madison Setzer, Olivia Garbarino, and Sonny McBride, along with Joseph Arcuri (class of 2017) and community members Chris Setzer and Tom Lombardi.

Living History

Todd's eighth grade students ventured to New York City on Tuesday, May 15, for a visit to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. This marks the 11th year that students have been treated to this trip on behalf of the Rabbi Erwin Zimet Memorial Institute and Mr. Victor Stern's involvement with this organization. In addition to touring the museum, students listened to the testimony of George Bear, who survived the Holocaust with his mother in Nazi-occupied Poland by "passing" as a Christian in and around the area of Warsaw. As always, the outdoor Garden of Stones exhibit—which looks out over New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island—was a



memorable part of the students' experience. This year an interactive exhibit called New Dimensions in Testimony was a real stand-out of the visit. Students were able to ask questions of lifelike projections of Holocaust survivors Eva Schloss and Pinchas Gutter. Installed last September and running through the end of August, this exhibit enables visitors to ask these two living Holocaust survivors any question about their experience in this era of history.



A Celebration of Scholarship

Faculty, parents, and students enjoyed the annual Todd Honor Roll Breakfast last week. Each day, students from a different grade were recognized. Congratulations to the honor roll students and their families!



District Musicians Continue to Shine

The Todd Band concert on May 16th and Hagan Spring Concert #1 on May 17th once again showcased the impressive talents of our students. Some scenes are below.



Todd Band Concert, conducted by Pennie Burgess and Victor Catanzaro.



Above: Scenes from Beginner Band.



Above: Third Grade Chorus sings "Green Eggs and Ham."

Mrs. Burgess and Ms. Valentine conduct beginner band and strings, respectively.

Safety First

On May 15th, third graders enjoyed a Bicycle Rodeo, which is held to reinforce bicycle safety. Thank you to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police for supporting this event.



Second Graders Collaborate

On May 18th, second graders participated in Teamwork Counts, an annual event co-produced by physical education teacher Carrie Spiegel and second grade teacher Dina Zanca. Twenty-two teams participated in rotating stations. Each station presented a different task that required the students to follow directions and work as a team. Students tested their skills with probability, solved a giant jigsaw puzzle, and identified states. They also guided each other blindfolded through obstacle courses. This year the event got even bigger, with four new stations, two of which were held outside.

Students enjoyed the challenges of putting their heads (and hands and feet!) together. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who worked so hard to make this fun activity a success!





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(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**



5/24/2018

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