

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

December 30, 2020

Dear Spackenkill Community,

It's almost 2021, and we continue to hear about COVID-19 and its spread in the news. It's easy to become discouraged, but we have to believe that the year ahead will bring good news. A year ago, before most of us had ever heard of a coronavirus, I wrote an essay for an administrators publication in which I talked about the "forever mindset." It's that feeling that things are going to last forever, when in reality they will have a definite ending. It seems hard to believe now, but someday we will look back on this pandemic and wonder how we got through it. Some of us have suffered more than others. Eventually, though, a brighter day will come. Please take a few minutes, if you can, to read this article and think about better times ahead.

The Forever Mindset:
**Wear Today,
Gone Tomorrow**



[Click here or on the image at left to read Dr. Fanuele's essay on 'The Forever Mindset'](#)

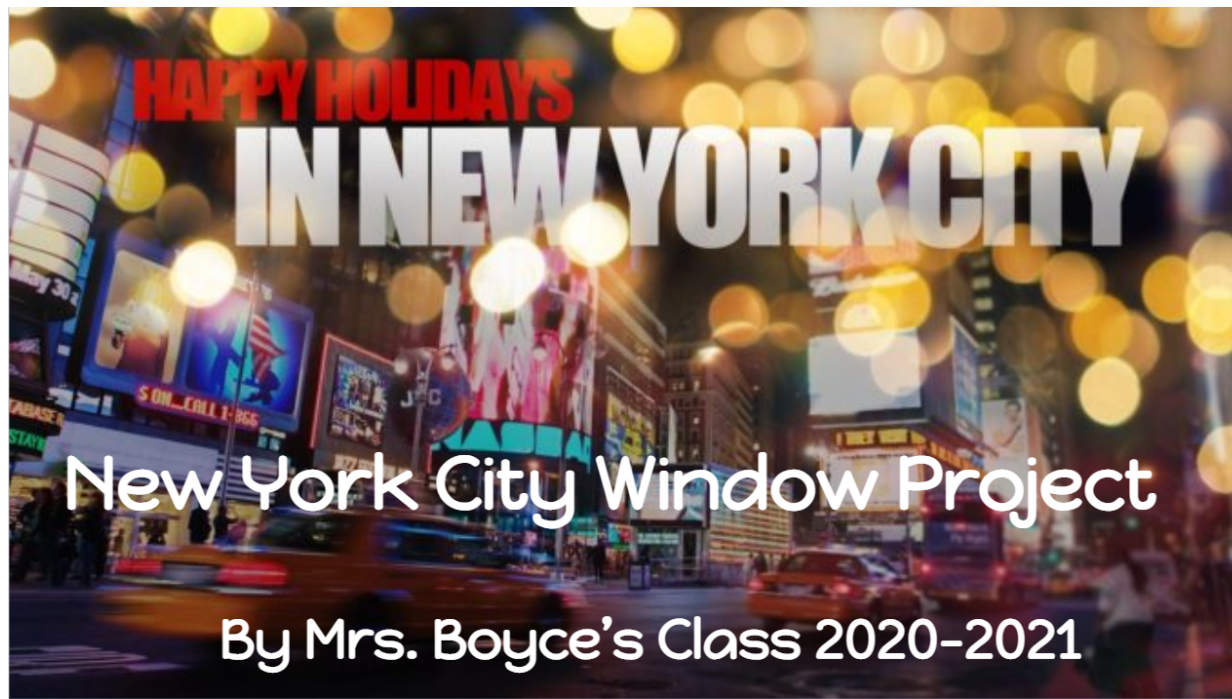


Dr. Patrick Fanuele, Ed.D. As we enter the middle of this school year, it is appropriate to be reflective and make sure we are not being naive and the whole group gets here for the same basic experience and outcomes. It does not mean to overpromise. We need to connect our students to the future.

Here are a few more stories to make you smile:

2nd Grade Remote Project

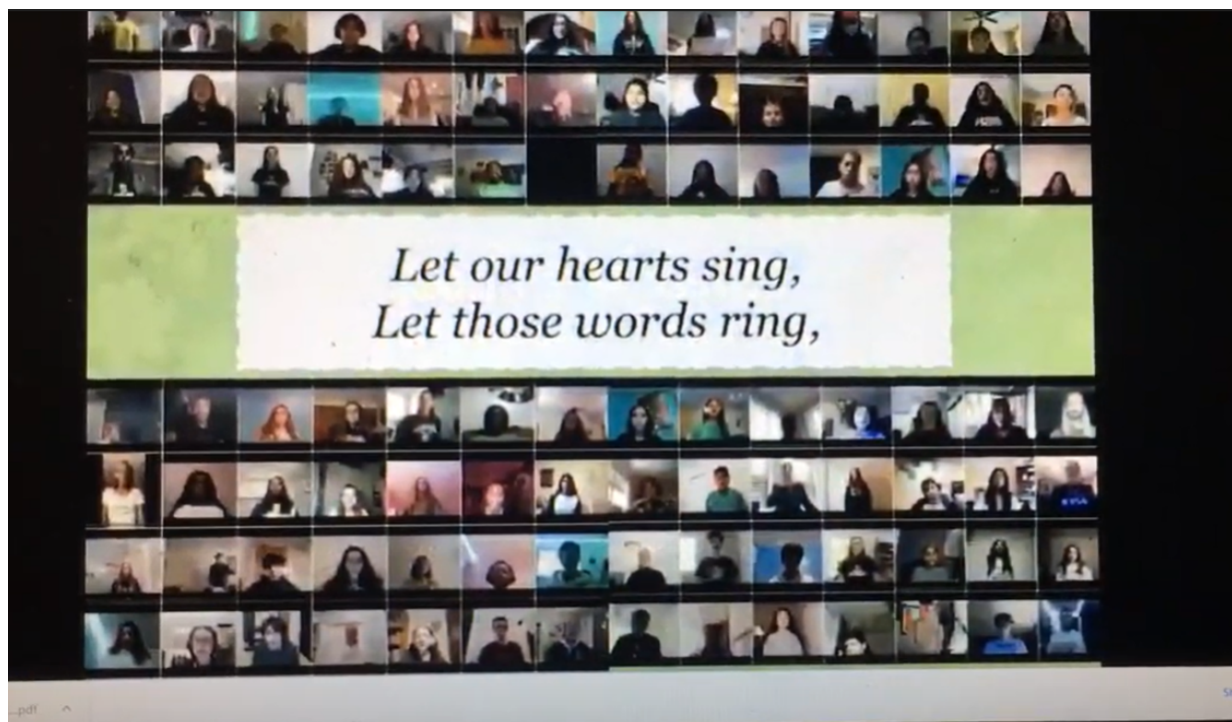
Mrs. Boyce's second grade class made a festive slideshow from home. [Please click here or on the image below to view:](#)



Virtual Holiday Concert

The first ever 7th-12th Grade Virtual Chorus Concert took place on Tuesday 12/22 at 7 pm on YouTube.

The program featured the official Spackenkill fight song, "Our Flying Colors" (staff joined the students in song), songs in Hebrew and German, some favorite holiday tunes, and more! The students have worked hard since September putting this project together. "The kids have persevered and created something really magical," said Chorus Director Holden Maiorana.



[Watch the video of "Our Flying Colors" by clicking here or on the image above.](#)

[Click here to read the program.](#)

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 22 positive COVID-19 cases. [You can see the breakdown by school on the NY State Report card](#): Please continue to consult the NY State Report Card for updates. Over the break, It's still important that if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they should email their principal so that we know what's going on in the community and can make informed decisions.

As a reminder, school resumes remotely on Monday, January 4th. Looking forward to the second half of our school year in 2021!

Sincerely,

Paul M. Fanuele, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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