

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

March 5, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I sent you a communication on Wednesday regarding our return to school plans. [If you'd like to review the details from my Wednesday message, please find it here.](#)

Just to recap: Our kindergartners returned to school full time this week. It was amazing to see the reactions of the students from different cohorts meeting each other for the first time. Nassau teachers and staff were very excited! The consensus was it felt like the first day of school. This excitement will continue as we move forward with increasing in-person instruction.



Above: Mrs. West's kindergarten sang a hand-clapping song together while following a video.



Above: Dr. Fanuele visited Mrs. West's classroom.



Above: Students in Mrs. Davis's kindergarten brought in toys for the first day back in person full time. This made them feel more comfortable as they met other students in

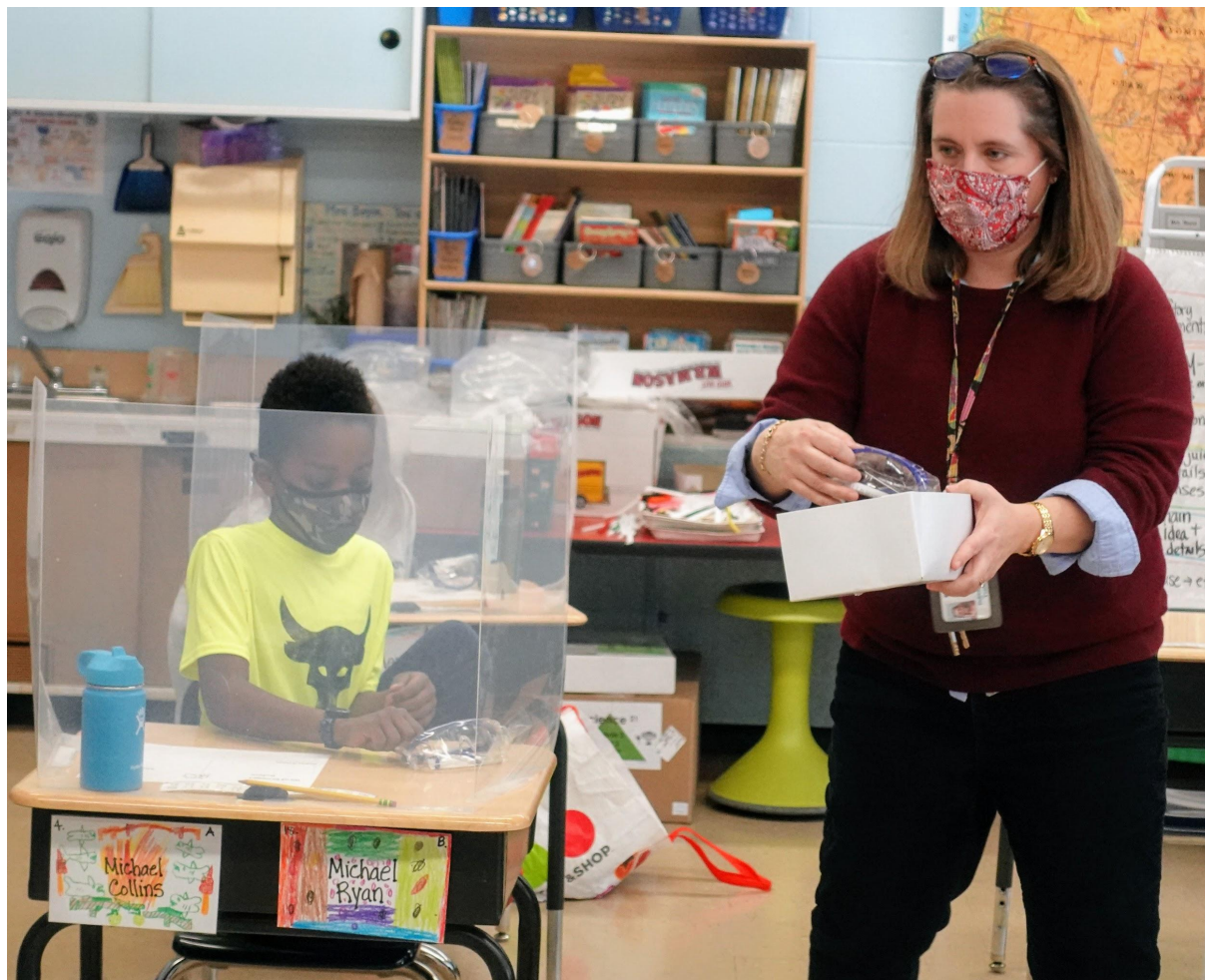
person for the first time, not to mention their art and music teachers.



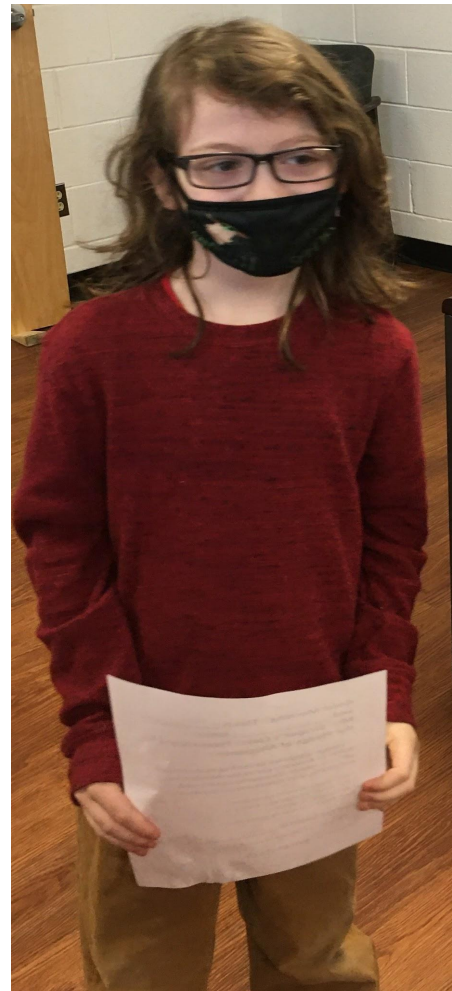
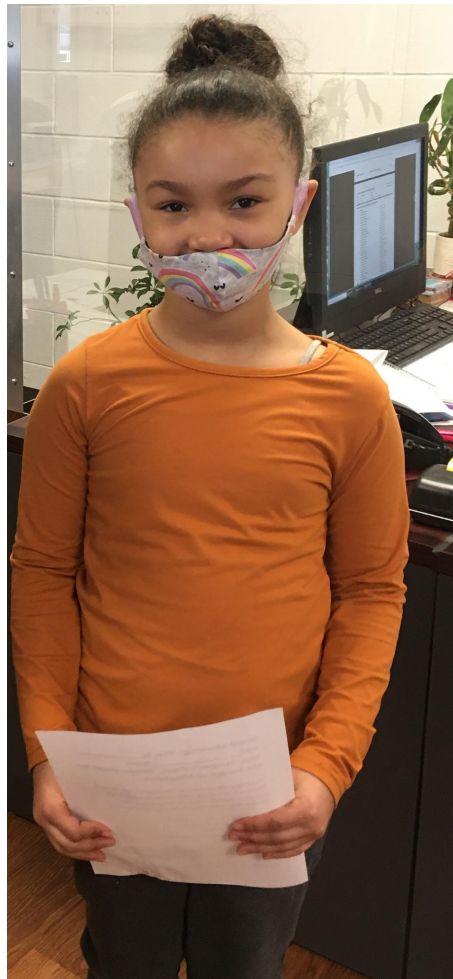
Above: Mrs. Ravas read a story to her kindergarten students.



Above: Dr. Fanuele visited with Mrs. Wilcox's second grade.



Above: Mrs. Boyce's students worked on a science project on Monday.



Above: Second graders Nia Agosta and Tiernan Kurtz led the Pledge of Allegiance on Monday. They did a great job!

COVID-19 Update

Since we started the school year, we have had 54 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. It's important that, even if they are remote, 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 continue to make informed decisions.

**NOTICE TO THE SPACKENKILL COMMUNITY:
TRACK AND FIELD ARE CLOSED
FOR PUBLIC USE
DURING ALL SPACKENKILL PRACTICES AND GAMES.**

- Public can use the asphalt path around the perimeter fence during practices only.
- Due to Section 9 COVID game day guidelines, facility is closed to the public for ALL Games (2 Spectators Permitted Per Home Athlete)

Art Teacher Receives Top Honor



We are thrilled to announce that Sharon Ciccone, K-5 art educator and curriculum coordinator, has been chosen by a national panel to receive the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Eastern Region Elementary Art Educator of the Year Award. This award recognizes exemplary service and achievement of regional significance. NAEA's

Eastern Region represents art educators from Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Labrador, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Overseas Art Education Association, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. Ms. Ciccone's award ceremony was broadcast last Saturday by the NAEA Conference. Ms. Ciccone previously won the State Art Educator of the Year award from the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA). "I am so thankful to the Spackenkill District for allowing me to flourish in the education of visual art. Thank you for recognizing the importance of art education for everyone. I am passionate about art, my students, and the future of arts education," said Ms. Ciccone.



Above: Sharon Ciccone is pictured in the Hagan art room packaging paints for her remote art students.

HS Teacher Recognized

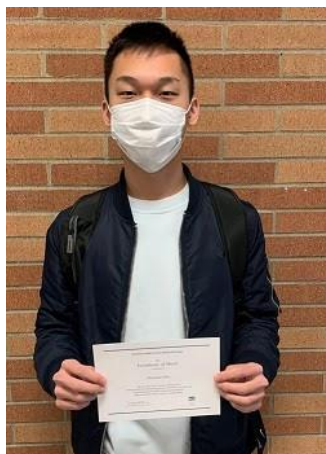


Superintendent on Education Panel



On March 4, Dr. Fanuele participated in the Hudson Valley New Teacher Institute. The virtual event is ordinarily held at Marist College, the host of the institute. Other panelists included administrators from regional school districts. Interviewing techniques, resumes, and landing your dream job were among the topics. Dr. Fanuele has appeared on this panel for seven years.

SHS National Merit Scholarship Finalist

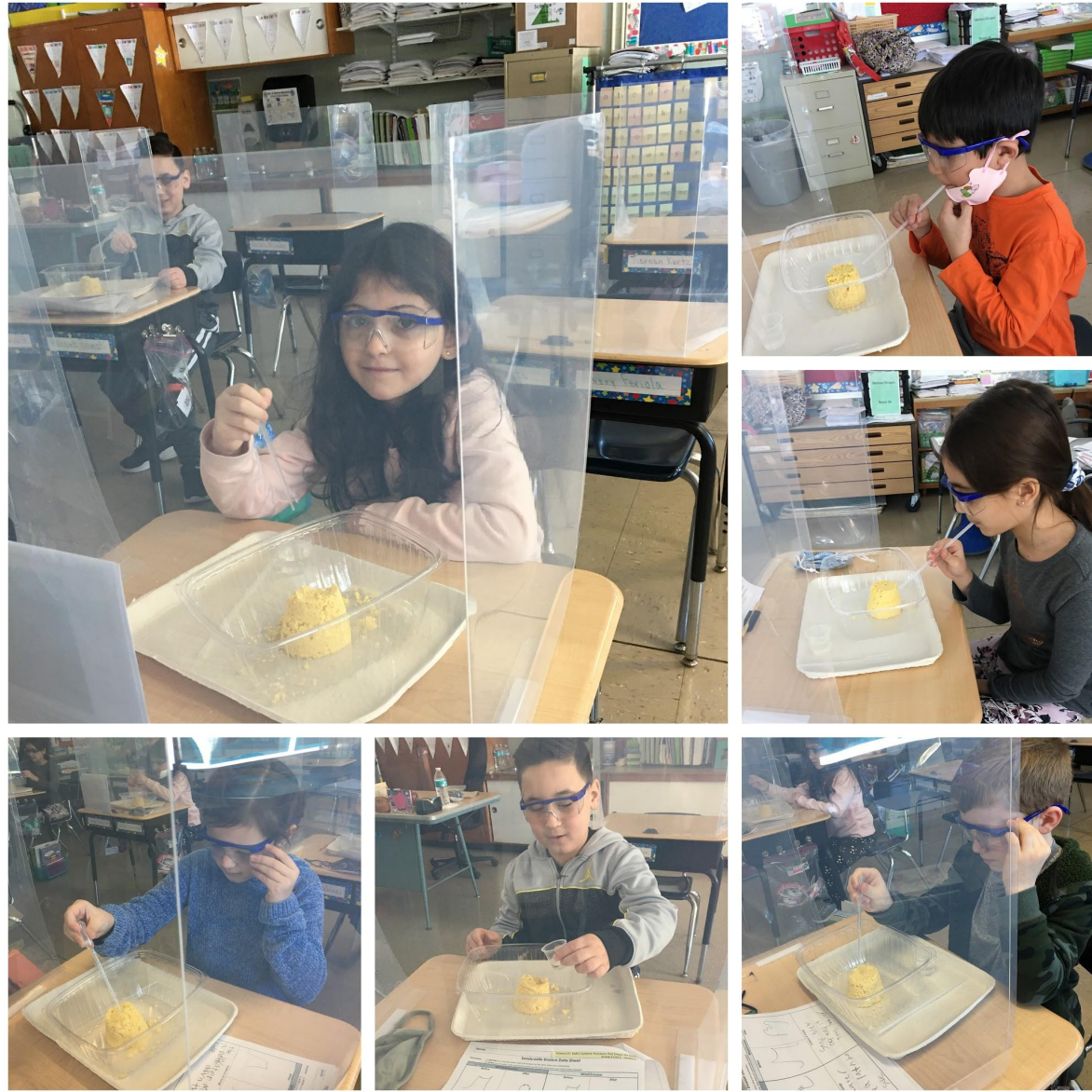


We are proud to announce that Alexander Zhu has been named a Finalist in the 2021 competition for the National Merit Scholarship Awards. He is among the 16,000 Semifinalists named in September 2020 who met the National Merit Scholarship Program requirements to advance to finalist standing. High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. The finalists are in the running for corporate, National Merit, and college-sponsored scholarships that will be awarded this spring and summer.

Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

Second Graders Tackle Erosion

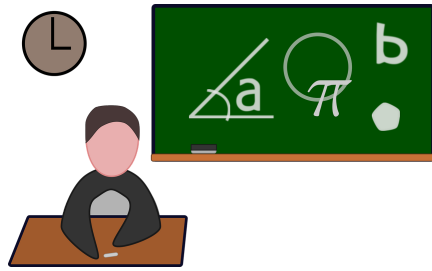
Mrs. Strapec's second graders have been learning about erosion and the effect of wind and water on sandcastles. The students worked individually to see what would happen when wind and water were applied to a sandcastle that they tested in class. Students were very focused and even wore safety goggles while doing this experiment.



In addition, Mrs. Zanca's students have been studying this topic. Students designed ways to protect their sandcastles from erosion and then tested them to see how well they worked. Photos of them working on their projects are below.



HS Tutors Help Their Peers



High School students who could use extra academic help now have access to an innovative Virtual Tutoring Program set up by 12th grade student Emily Cohen. National Honor Society volunteer tutors are available in a variety of subjects throughout the week. Great idea! Please contact Mrs. Grillo, the High School Library

Media Specialist, if you have any questions.



Todd staff came together today for a group picture wearing Sparrow's Nest gear. The gathering symbolizes support for this grassroots organization, which supplies meals and general support to Hudson Valley families affected by cancer. To learn more: <https://sparrowsnestcharity.org/about-sparrows-nest/>

Have a great weekend. Looking forward to seeing our first and second grade in-person students next week!

Sincerely,

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

