Dear Spackenkill Community,

In two more weeks we will conclude this school year and students and their families will embark on summer vacation. I mention this because summertime, while it's vacation time, is also an opportunity to continue your learning. And there are many different ways to learn other than the traditional classroom. For example, in this issue we are publicizing volunteerism. As I look back on my young adulthood, it was some of my volunteer experiences that shaped my future career decision making.

Also included are flyers for the writing instruction in two different programs as well as the numerous literacy programs run by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. Continuing to read and write for pleasure makes us better scholars.

Families who have the opportunity to travel to historical sites and art galleries and to provide drama and theater experiences enrich their children's education. For those who can't travel, of course, there are so many local opportunities in parks, museums, and historical sites. We urge you as a family to continue to take advantage of
those programs as well as keep up with summer reading requirements that vary by school and grade level. We're also including a link from the New York State Education Department regarding summer reading experiences.

Now I just need to get serious again: With two weeks left in the school year, continue to work hard, come to school every day, and finish Spartan Strong.

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Class of 2019 Recognized

On June 6th, the Spackenkill High School Recognition Awards and the Athletic Awards took place. Students who distinguished themselves in a variety of categories were honored for their excellent work here at Spackenkill, whether through citizenship and community service, the performing arts, academically, or as team players. A number of scholarships were also awarded, including the PTSA Dollars for Seniors Awards, so generously supported by the Spackenkill community. Thank you to all of the sponsors and congratulations to the students!

Please click here for the Recognition Program.

Please click here for the Athletic Awards Program.

Attention Graduating Seniors!
Please click here to join the Spackenkill Alumni Association

Choristers Perform at Prestigious International Event

Last weekend, chorus students traveled into New York City with choral director Holden Maiorana for an incredible experience: singing at Carnegie Hall. The students selected for this once-in-a-lifetime experience are Baylee Kramer, Macy Hammond, Brielle Duguid, Leo Herrera, John Ryan, and Johnny Mulcahy. On Friday and Saturday, the students rehearsed a piece (the world premiere of a seven-movement masterwork for chorus and orchestra) with the composer himself: Kirby Shaw, one of the most prolific choral composers of all time. It is so rare for students (especially in high school) to premiere a new piece of music and work with the composer! The choir itself consisted of the top groups from around the country (including New Jersey, California, Oregon, and Colorado, to name a few states represented) as well as professional choirs from Germany, France, and Australia.

On Sunday, after another rehearsal at the Times Square Westin, the students got to experience the Tony Awards red carpet on their way to Carnegie Hall. Afterward, they performed for thousands in one of the most famous music halls in existence.

“Without exaggeration, these students are forever changed by their experience,” said Mr. Maiorana.
Above, clockwise from top left: Pictured from left to right are Baylee Kramer, Brielle Duguid, John Ryan, Macy Hammond, composer Kirby Shaw, Holden Maiorana, Leo Herrera, and Johnny Mulcahy. Posing in front of the promotional poster. Spackenkill in the Carnegie Hall program. A bird’s-eye view of the choir. Out and about in the city.

Farewell, SRO Kilfoyle

The District Safety Committee said a fond farewell to School Resource Officer (SRO) Corey Kilfoyle (pictured far left with Board President Tom Keith), who will be leaving Spackenkill at the end of this school year to assume detective duties with the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department. The committee congratulated Officer Kilfoyle and thanked him for his dedicated service. The new district SRO, Steve Doughty, will assume the position for the 2019-2020 school year.

Senator Honors Todd Student
Congratulations to Adam Macklin for being named one of Senator Sue Serino’s Superstars. Adam was surprised in his English class last Friday when Senator Serino stopped by to honor him with this award. The president of Todd’s Student Government Organization, a major force behind the annual KidVenture event, and a supporter of Adam’s Lemonade Stand, Adam is well deserving of this award, which recognizes an outstanding middle school student who makes a difference in the lives of others through kindness, courage, and leadership. Adam was nominated by Mr. Doherty and Mrs. Camburn. We are all proud of him!

Above, clockwise from top left: Pictured from left to right are Principal Dan Doherty, Senator Sue Serino, Adam Macklin, Lisa Macklin, Mary Camburn, and Superintendent Mark Villanti. Applause for Adam. Senator Serno presents Adam with a commemorative certificate.

Students Look Forward to Middle School

Fifth grade students paid a visit to Todd Middle School on June 5th for orientation and learned a lot about what to expect over the next three years. The students were warmly greeted by Principal Dan Doherty, who told them about Todd traditions. Counselors Mary Camburn and Kristen Gil filled them in on scheduling classes and options like Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and technology. Student Government president Adam Macklin encouraged the students to get involved with activities and explore clubs. The students also met their future teachers and went on tours led by current sixth graders.
**Bubble Bus Pops In**

It was a happy scene at Nassau during recess on Wednesday when the Bubble Bus visited. Students were amazed at the profusion of bubbles large and small that rained down on the playground while they listened to high-energy dance music. Thank you for the Elementary PTA for making this fun event possible.
Click here to watch a quick video of the Bubble Bus and Nassau students in action.

**Hagan's Day in the Sun**

A rainy early morning on June 11th turned sunny by 10 am, right on cue for Hagan Field Day. Students enjoyed a variety of games and activities, including a Harry Potter relay, a tarp slip 'n' slide, obstacle course, and a variety of teamwork water games. There was a lot of energy in the air and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks to the volunteers, who helped everything run smoothly, as well as to those who donated food to make this a special day.
Kindergarten Concert Ends Year on High Note

Family and friends packed the Nassau gym on Thursday to see the Kindergarten Concert. Teacher Kody Andreas incorporated plenty of movement into the songs the students performed, making it a lively show. Highlights included the students singing "You Are My Sunshine" and acting out a song about robots. Mr. Andreas also showed a video that captured moments in music class this year. Students answered questions about music with responses like "I love music because we can follow the beat" and "I love music because I love my music teacher!" Kindergarten teachers and teaching assistants also appeared in the video telling the students how much they'll miss them and encouraging them to do their best in first grade. There was also a tribute to teaching assistant Judianne Middlebrook, who will be retiring at the end of the school year.
Spackenkill students Evan Habert and Ozzie Hutchinson recently participated in the fourth annual All for One, One for All event. It was hosted by Dr. Seema Rizvi and the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association in association with Jewish temples, Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, Mid-Hudson Refugee Organization, and Dutchess County Interfaith Council. Civic leaders, educators, and families also attended this special program on peace, solidarity and inclusiveness.

Evan and Ozzie both shared their thoughts on a panel involving students and adults. Evan emphasized the value of engaging local speakers to enhance the study of world religions and Ozzie talked about the importance of having a diverse work force that reflects our community.
Fall Sports Registration

Online registration for fall sports opens on the following dates this summer:

JV/Varisty sports – July 20, 2019
Modified sports – August 7, 2019

http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-uﬁsd-athletics

The start date for fall sports:

JV/Varisty - August 19, 2019
Modified - September 5, 2019

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@uﬁsdny.org