Dear Spackenkill Community,

I'd like to begin my comments simply thanking all of you who took the time to vote this past Tuesday. The passing margin was approximately 83%. I believe that demonstrates to the Board of Education that our community is supportive of our school district. Thank you and congratulations to Daniel Koehler on winning the trustee seat.

The Board of Education has approved posting my position on the OLAS job site. As you may already know, Mary Forsell has provided you on the website with the timeline and the qualities that the Board is seeking for my replacement. Just a reminder: I'm not going anywhere too soon. I'll be working through the end of June of 2020, hopefully enough time to complete all the ongoing Capital Projects and continue the many initiatives throughout the district, some of which are referenced in this newsletter.

For our next meeting, June 4th, we have moved the start time to 6:30 pm in order to provide Lou Rodriguez, our construction manager, with an opportunity to discuss with the Board of Education their recommendations for the long-awaited field and track project.

We have been extremely relieved so far in that our bids on the projects are within our budget. I've heard so many examples of districts that are struggling right now because of the escalating costs of school construction.

We will also be celebrating at the June 4th meeting many of the great contributors to our school district, including our retiring staff members. That meeting will be held in the Orville A. Todd Dining Hall.

Enjoy your long Memorial Day weekend and your time with family. We're having a remembrance ceremony of our own: On May 31st at 7:30 pm at the high school, the LEO Club is sponsoring our annual Remembrance Walk, as we honor those who have passed away in our
community.

My best,

[Signature]

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Students Explore Jewish Heritage

Field Trip to NYC Followed by Talk with Holocaust Survivor

Eighth graders recently went on a field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Todd English teacher Elizabeth Morehead writes, “This is the twelfth year the Rabbi Erwin Zimet Memorial Institute has sponsored this trip for our students, which enhances the English and social studies curriculum and provides students with an understanding of the importance of acceptance in our history and in the modern world.”

Mrs. Morehead also notes that the museum has just opened a new exhibit titled *Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away*, which our students explored as they listened to docents take them through this difficult part of our world’s history with steady reminders that history has the potential to repeat itself. The day was capped off with lunch and views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which underscored the wealth of our own freedom in the United States.

On Thursday of this week, Dr. Alex Levy (depicted at right speaking and seated with students) paid a visit to eighth grade students to recount his personal experiences as a child during Nazism. He stressed that intolerance fueled the Holocaust. The students were riveted by his story of being hidden in a Catholic girls’ orphanage in Belgium for three years during World War II. Dr. Levy, a retired English teacher, brought to life his story and conveyed the atmosphere of fear in WWII Europe for all people, but particularly for Jews."War felt like sheer terror day after day." He also reminisced about Liberation Day, when Allied Forces flushed out Nazi occupation.
Above: Students visit the museum and take in views from Lower Manhattan.

**MHAL Breakfast Honors Scholar-Athletes**

Ian Horvath and Rachel Li were honored this past Monday at the Mid-Hudson Athletic League's (MHAL) 21st Annual Senior Scholar breakfast. Two athletes, one male and one female, from 17 local school districts were recognized, for a total of 34 scholar-athletes. MHAL awards four scholarships, two for males and two for females, in the following categories. The Carmen Congeli Sportsmanship Scholarship and the Donald Andrews Scholar Athlete Scholarship. Both Ian and Rachel both won the latter scholarship. Well done!
RACHEL LI

GPA: 95.01

Class Rank: 1

Varsity Sports: Girls Tennis (4 years), Track & Field (2 years)

Athletic Honors: Tennis Team Captain, MHAL Tennis Championship—No. 1 Doubles Player (2021) and No. 1 Singles Player, President’s Award for Girls Tennis All-Star Team—First Team (2011), MHAL and NYSPIRAA Scholar Athlete (2021-2022)

Academic Honors: National Honor Society, Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award, National Merit Scholar, AP Scholarship in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Economics, Environmental Science, Health, and Pre-Med Preparatory Program, WASP Scholarship, President’s Award for Environmental Science, President’s Award for Math, President’s Award for Humanities, President’s Award for English, President’s Award for Social Sciences, President’s Award for Science, President’s Award for Physical Science, President’s Award for Fine Arts, President’s Award for Performing Arts, President’s Award for Athletics, President’s Award for Community Service, President’s Award for Leadership, President’s Award for Academic Excellence, President’s Award for Extracurricular Activities, President’s Award for Service, President’s Award for National Merit, President’s Award for National Honor Society, President’s Award for National Honor Society, President’s Award for National Honor Society, President’s Award for National Honor Society, President’s Award for 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IAN HORVATH

GPA: 97.03

Class Rank: 4

Varsity Sports: Soccer (2 years), Indoor Track (1 year), Outdoor Track (1 year)

Athletic Honors: Outdoor Track Co-Captain, MHAL and NYSPIRAA Scholar Athlete (4 years), 1st in Long Jump and 2nd in Triple Jump at Winter 2020 Section I Championships

Academic Honors: National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Johns Hopkins Book Award, National Merit Scholarship—Letter of Commendation, Outstanding Performance in the American Chemical Society's local Chemistry Olympiad Exams, Nomination for 2019 Presidential Scholar

Other Extracurricular Activities: Appellate Services Project Summer Volunteer (2 years), LEAGUE (4 years), Chess Team (4 years), Pop Band (4 years), Sparkenkill Science Olympiad (4 years), Sparkenkill Math Team (4 years)

College: University of Notre Dame, major in Environmental Engineering

Above, pictured left to right: Director of Athletics Marco Lanzoni, Rachel Li, Ian Horvath, and MHAL President Tom Cassata.
Join LEO Club in...

**The Remembrance Walk**

Join us as we walk, share our stories, and release lanterns in memory of those we have lost. Recent events both in our community and nationwide have impacted all of us. Please join us to recognize our loved ones together in a powerful way.

**May 31st**
**7:30pm-8:30pm**
**Spackenkill HS Track**

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**Plant Investigators**

Mrs. Strapec's and Mrs. Turner's second graders have been observing the effects that water and sunlight have on plants in science class. The students are working in groups to see what happens to plants if one variable changes but they remember that they must do a "fair test." Some students are putting bags over their plant and some students are giving different amounts of water to their plant. Some plants have bags with holes over the plant. The students are busy measuring and recording their results, and they will do this over the course of a few weeks.
Group Efforts

Last Friday, second grade students spent their morning involved in Teamwork Counts, an annual activity co-produced by physical education teacher Carrie Spiegel and second grade teacher Dina Zanca. The students were randomly divided into teams of six and work at a variety of problem-solving stations. The objective of this event is to encourage team spirit and cooperative team effort. Children are able to show off their special skills and talents through this educationally challenging and enjoyable experience. Thank you to the parent volunteers!
Congratulations to Ozzie Hutchinson for winning the MHAL Shotput Championship with a distance of 45' 11.25"!

The Spackenkill Women’s Freshman 4 boat took home the League Championship! Congratulations to the team of Hannah Ullinger, Grace Philips, Katie Gagliardi, Amanda Johnson, and Nordelis Vega.
PTA/PTSA Events

Book Fair and Color Run

Last week, the Elementary PTA held a Scholastic Book Fair at Hagan Elementary and an ice cream social. Students enjoyed browsing during the school day and picking out special titles. Thank you to all the parent volunteers. On Saturday, May 18th, the Elementary PTA teamed up with Secondary PTSA to sponsor a community wide Color-a-Thon/Color Run. Families flocked to Todd Middle School to race around the field and enjoy the concessions. Participants had fun dusting themselves with a rainbow of shades and especially enjoyed blasting brave teachers and administrators with color as the finale.
Dressing Up Their School

Garden Club Gets Planting

The Hagan Garden Club has been working with Mrs. Riehl to spruce up the flower bed at the school entrance. The students learn about planting techniques and care while they also contribute beauty to the community.
Science Research Symposium is Next Tuesday!

May 28, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Spackenkill High School
Richard D Woolley Auditorium

Special Presenter:
Sam Herachy
"bumblebee gene flow across a heterogeneous landscape"

Science Research Symposium

Senior Presenters:
Mia Eng-Kohi | Orinella Alsayah
Zackary Herachy | Irfan Shaw
Rachelle Li | Birsha Kamada
Grace Katz | Zoe Whalen

Students Enjoy the Season
Todd Students got active after school last Friday for Spring Fling. Thanks to Student Government and advisor Norma Vazquez, the students chose from a variety of fun activities like hula-hooping and basketball, while also patronizing Alex's Lemonade Stand.
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