Dear Spackenkill Community,

Bienvenue! Welcome back from your spring recess. I especially want to welcome back our high school French students from their trip abroad. Everything I heard about the trip was positive, but of course the fire in Notre Dame cathedral was a scare for all of us—such beauty, and now to be rebuilt.

Sometimes I feel like a proud father at Spackenkill—although in most instances, I take no credit because the accomplishments are yours: students, staff, and families. When I came upon an article in an online newsletter about the top 50 upstate schools in SAT scores, of course I was curious as I scrolled through the list. As I hit number 10 and still didn’t see the name Spackenkill, I thought, “I wonder what happened this year?” Much to my delight, Spackenkill showed up as number 3 out of 450 school districts in New York State. So congratulations, students! You are a very intelligent and focused group of young people, and I have to say it a second time—still amazing, 3 out of 450 districts. I am just so proud. Let’s not forget that success like this is also a byproduct of your family values on education and a result of good instruction throughout your 12 years of schooling.

Thank you, Adam and Mikayla Macklin, for your participation in KidVenture at Dutchess Community College this weekend. I represent the county superintendents in the planning group, and I’m pleased to say that
our own Spackapella will be performing on Sunday at 2 pm in Dutchess Hall's theater under the direction of Holden Maiorana. Also, our athletic department's Coach Lanza will be providing a soccer clinic on Sunday from 1 to 2 pm for elementary school-age students, and coaches Kennedy and Garrant will be providing a running clinic for elementary school children at 2:30 pm.

Hope to see you there!

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Kudos to Spackenkill High School!

Spackenkill HS SAT Scores #3 Upstate

Syracuse.com compiled a searchable database of 50 upstate school districts with the best SAT scores, according to the College Board, which administers the test. The results were released by the NYS Education Department putting Spackenkill at #3!

Congratulations to students and faculty!

Click here for the link to the story.

HS Junior Named a College Prep Scholar

A junior from Spackenkill High School has been selected as a QuestBridge 2019 College Prep Scholar. For the 2019 College Prep Scholars Program, QuestBridge received over 10,800 applications and selected 3,123 high school juniors based on their academic, financial, and extracurricular credentials. Being a College Prep Scholar is a notable distinction that shows QuestBridge's 40 college partners that the student is a competitive candidate for admission. As a College Prep Scholar, students receive exclusive awards and opportunities to develop a strong college application that shares their unique story. This is the second junior that the high school has had accepted to this prestigious program in the last three years. The QuestBridge website has statistical information about the students who were selected this year as well as more information about the program.
ANNUAL VOTE & ELECTION:

Click here for information about upcoming vote

Click here to download Absentee Ballot Application

Trustee Election:

There is one seat available on the Board of Education beginning July 1, 2019 for a five-year term ending June 30, 2024. Election of School Board Members is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st. The following two candidates are running:

Click here to read about Daniel G. Koehler.

Click here to read about Vickie Setzer.

Human Rights Club Holds Talk

FAIHR (Friends and Advocates of Human Rights club), in collaboration with Vassar College, hosted a presentation by the Red Sand Project on April 10th. The Red Sand Project was founded at Vassar College in 2016 and strives to raise awareness against human trafficking. After hearing a talk about overlooked populations being exploited for project, Spackerkill students signed petitions and added red sand to cracks in the sidewalk outside of the auditorium to represent people who have fallen through the cracks. The students also signed petitions to stop human trafficking. Learn more at red-sandproject.org.

FAIHR Club gathers to raise awareness of human trafficking.
Students view a presentation and later fill cracks with red sand to remember people who have fallen through the cracks.

**Correction to Environmental Club Story (Plus Update)**

In the April 12th edition of What’s Right with Spackenkill, the graduation year of alumni Alex Olsen and Patrick Letteri was incorrectly listed. They are class of 2005, not 2015! The story was about the High School Environmental Club’s preview of *Lead and Copper*, a documentary on the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, for which Mr. Olsen and Mr. Letteri are the producers. For those who missed the first presentation, the entire community is invited to a second showing of this eye-opening documentary on May 15th at 7 pm in the high school auditorium.

**Trip to France Is Life-Changing Experience**

Seventeen high school French students returned from their trip to France last weekend with their teachers. Students immersed themselves in French life and were able to practice their foreign language skills, while also touring cultural and historical sites, including
the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre in Paris plus the Normandy beaches where American troops liberated France from the grips of Nazism. The itinerary also included Provence and the Cote d'Azur.

We asked the students about the trip and found the answers helpful for planning next year's trip!

What's one important thing you learned on the trip?

"One important thing I learned on the trip was to appreciate the differences in other cultures. Although the French way of life is very different from the way of life in the United States, as the trip went on I learned to appreciate the differences...."

"It is important to stay in a group of at least two to three people when traveling with your school....There's security in numbers"

Did you feel prepared for the trip and were able to speak French comfortably? Why or why not?

"Yes, I felt extremely prepared for the trip, and being only a French 2 student, I surprised myself with how much French I was able to speak. Most of the French we spoke was conversational, used to help us order food and make purchases, but added so much to the experience as it allowed us to grow in the language, as well as in the culture."

"Yes, I felt prepared and was able to speak to waiters and store workers."

"Yes, we were taught many helpful phrases."

"Yes, I prepared and I was able to speak conversational French fairly well, which is to be expected since I've taken French for five years."
"It was much different talking to French people because they speak very fast."

What was a highlight of the trip, such as the best place you visited? Why?

"Notre Dame, because even though it was burned up, it was still very beautiful."

"The best place we visited on the trip, in my opinion, was Nice. I really enjoyed the relaxed feeling of the city, and being on the beach added even more to the experience. Nice embodied a mixture of cultures, really channeling the Mediterranean way of life."

"I loved Paris because I grew up seeing pictures and it was great to be able to see those places in person. I personally enjoyed it all, since it was all so different it's hard to choose."

"The Eiffel Tower because it is globally known and it is really tall."

What surprised you most in France?

"The difference in culture and way of daily life surprised me most, especially the difference in eating and food culture. It was difficult to find a quick lunch in most cities."

"I was surprised how everyone had to say 'bonjour' when entering a store."

"How different the food is"

Do you plan on ever returning to France, and if so is there a place you would visit or thing you would do that was not on your trip?

"Yes, I will definitely return to France. I would visit palace of Versailles."

"I do plan on returning to France, and when I do I actually plan on returning to cities we visited on the trip, such as Paris and Nice, and learning more about them."

"Yes, I want to return and see Notre Dame and spend more time in Paris because I felt our time there was rushed. I would also spend more time in the south."

"I definitely would return to France because I really liked the culture, people, and environment."

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**Todd Students Re-Enact First Olympics**

Before the spring break, the social studies grade 6 classes of Mr. Colon and Mrs. Walsh competed in the Todd Greek Olympic Games. After researching their assigned city-states and events, athletes competed in such events as long jump, javelin, discus, relay, and boxing (a memory game). Medals were awarded to the winning athletes during closing ceremonies! Fun and good sportsmanship was had by all (except the Spartans, who got in character to pay tribute to the lying, cheating city-state of Sparta).
MAY 28, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
SPACKENKILL HIGH SCHOOL
RICHARD D WOOLLEY AUDITORIUM

SPECIAL PRESENTER:
SAM HERAGHTY
"BUMBLEBEE GENE FLOW ACROSS
A HETEROGENEOUS LANDSCAPE"

SCIENCE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

SENIOR PRESENTERS:
MIA ENG-KOHN | ORNELLA ALSAYAH
ZACKARY HERAGHTY | IRFAN SHAW
RACHEL LI | SNEHA KAMADA
GRACE KATZ | ZOE WHALEN
Seatbelt Safety Experts

Following up on a previous meeting with the District Safety Committee, students from Mrs. Roger's and Mrs. Walsh's 8th grade science classes returned with an updated presentation on seatbelt safety on April 10th. Once again, the students did a great job explaining the potential hazards of not using seatbelts on school buses and provided information on the status of school bus seatbelt law in New York State, while also giving a snapshot of school bus seatbelt safety nationwide.

Please click on this link to view the presentation.

KidVenture Is This Weekend!

Todd Middle School eighth grader Adam Macklin and his sister, Mikayla, a fourth grader at Hagan, have been working for months with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Foundation to promote Hudson Valley KidVenture, an event coming up this Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. This family community event will take place at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. KidVenture will feature exhibitors, drones, touch a truck, performances, and much more. On Sunday, Spackenkill Hig
School’s Spackapella, led by Mr. Malorana, will perform. Coach Lanza will lead a soccer clinic, and Coaches Kennedy and Garrant will hold a running clinic. For more information visit http://www.hvkidventure.org or KidVenture Facebook Page.

Brother and sister Adam and Mikayla Macklin promoted KidVenture on air at iHeartMedia of the Hudson Valley. Above left, from left to right:
Nick Shannon, Executive Director of the Chamber Foundation; DJ "Uncle Mike" of iHeartMedia; Adam; Mikayla; and Frank Castella, Jr., President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Parents Share Business Insights

As part of her Business Organization Unit in Economics, high school teacher Jodi Girard asked students to reach out to their family members involved in the business world, either as single proprietors, partners, or in the corporate community and invite them to share their entrepreneurial stories with the class. Several Spackenkill parents shared their experiences and insights about the business world. Thank you to Mike Ruppert, John Mc Kee, and Rossana Bregila.
Pictured are Mr. Mc Kee and daughter Juliane (top right) and Mrs. Breglia and daughter Marcella (bottom right).

Fun & Games

On the last day before spring break, students in Mrs. Ravas's kindergarten had a Board Game Afternoon. Thank you to the high school students and parent volunteers who helped them navigate the games and reinforced cooperation and sportsmanship. The students enjoyed taking a break from technology while playing classic board games and practicing their reading and counting skills. The activity also helped them with the concept of developing a strategy. It was a fun afternoon!
Happy Earth Day!

In observance of Earth Day this week, Mrs. Strapec's second graders decorated bags with slogans about ways to keep our Earth clean. The bags were put on display at Adans, Poughkeepsie, and distributed to customers to use on Earth Day.
THE STATE ASSESSMENTS

What Parents Need to Know

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards and can support professional development for teachers. Click here for the Parent Toolkit for the 2019 tests.

Upcoming PTSA Meetings

April 8th High School
May 13th Todd

June No meeting

All meetings at 7 PM in middle or high school library

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@subsdny.org