

Please see flyer(s) that might be of interest:

[PTA Spackenkill Fun Day @ DC Sports](#)



*What's Right with Spackenkill!*

*June 7, 2019*



*A tradition of excellence  
with a vision for tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Our schools continue to bustle with end-of-year activities, as you will note reading the newsletter. One program that I want to highlight is the Board of Education's annual Celebration of Successes meeting this week. Mary Forsell has taken some great photos of our district "heroes." It includes distinguished graduates, including this year's valedictorian, Rachel Li, and salutatorian, Grace Katz. We are also especially proud of four students who have demonstrated great progress this year and earned the title "comeback kids"!

The life blood of every school district is its people – educators who inspire, clerical staff who unofficially run our buildings, custodians who treat our buildings as their second homes, and administrators who lead our schools. This year several retirees will be leaving us and starting their next stage of life. In the remaining days of school please thank the following people:

SHS: Dr. Patricia Tripken, Jane DeChristopher, Amy Matts

Todd: Deborah Muellerleite, Tom Mulvihill, Norma Vazquez

Hagan: Dave Murray

Nassau: Tony Elting, Judianne Middlebrook

By the way, when you total their years of service to Spackenkill, it amounts to over 200 years of service and a 25-year average employment history with Spack!

My best,



Mark Villanti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## ***Board Celebrates Students & Staff***

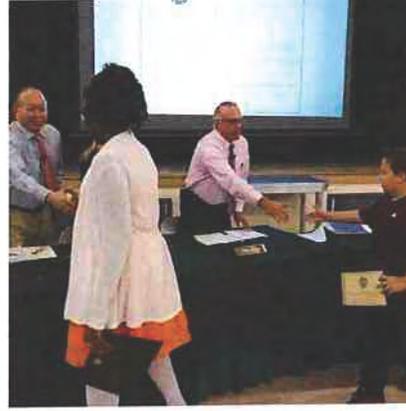


At the June 4th Board of Education meeting, students and staff of distinction were recognized for their contributions to the district. Congratulations to our retirees, as well as Board Vice President Melissa Dominick (who has completed her term), Dr. Anchala Sobrin (who recently completed her doctorate in Educational Administration), and School Resource Officer Corey Kilfoyle (who leaves us at the end of the school year). Thank you to Karen

Baker for creating the beautiful posters of the graduates!

[Please click here for the program.](#)

*Above left to right: Graduates of Distinction with Superintendent Villanti and Principal Malkischer: Rachel Li, Grace Katz, Ayanfe Adebajo, Ian Horvath, and Jonathan Waxman.*



Above, clockwise from top left: Comeback Kids Ne Vaeh Allen, Milo Whittaker-Sellick, and Aidan Ramos with teachers and administrators (not pictured: Zahra Ghannam from Nassau); Comeback Kids shaking hands with the Board; Superintendent Villanti with Officer Corey Kilfoyle.



Above, clockwise from top left: Principal Farrell with Retiring Teacher of Distinction Dave Murray and Superintendent Villanti; Principal Malkischer with Retiring Teacher of Distinction Amy Matts and Superintendent Villanti; Board Vice President Melissa Dominick with Board President Tom Keith and Superintendent Villanti; Principal Nancy Ferrarone and Superintendent Villanti with Retirees of Distinction Judianne Middlebrook and Tony Elting.



Above, top photo: Administrators of Distinction (holding certificates) Dr. Anchala Sobrin and Dr. Patricia Tripken with superintendent and building principals. Bottom photo: Retiring Todd Teachers of Distinction Tom Mulvihill, Deborah Muellerleile, and Norma Vazquez with Superintendent Villanti, Assistant Superintendent Lori Mulford, and Principal Dan Doherty.



Above: Graduates of Distinction pose with their posters, created by Karen Baker.

### ***DC Chamber Recognizes Future Leaders***



Spackenkill students involved in the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program through The Chamber Foundation recently attended a dinner in their honor. The event recognized their hard work and dedication to developing themselves as future leaders. The Youth Leadership Program is designed to develop the academic, social, and life skills of area youth. Students have opportunities with community-based service organizations, institutions of higher education, and professionals from local industry.

[Read more about the program by clicking here.](#)

Above, pictured left to right are Johnny Mulcahy, Guidance Counselor Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotter, Melissa Conti, Anikha Justin, Caroline Currie, Philip Rottkamp, Principal Steve Malkischer, and Albert Yao. *Not in photo:* Morgan Lo, Abigail Straus, Lucy Palumbo, Jake Spero, and Madeleine Thezan.

### ***Another Division 1 Football Signing!***



Congratulations to Ozzie Hutchinson for signing his National Letter of Intent to play football at the University at Albany! He is the second Division 1 signing in Spackenkill Football history. Many fellow students came out to congratulate Ozzie, as well as alum Kyiev Bennermon, who signed his Division 1 letter of intent in December of 2017.

Coach Clinton DeSouza said of Ozzie, "While he's definitely one of the biggest guys to play in our program history, he also has a huge heart and tremendous character."

Pictured above with Ozzie are his parents, Hugh and Jasmine (a teacher at Todd Middle School), and Rema, his grandmother.



*Clockwise from top left: Ozzie with teammates. Kylev Bennermon congratulates the senior. Signing his National Letter of Intent.*

## **Concerts Spread Musical Message**

Nassau's in-school concert on May 30th was a lot of fun for both the musicians and the audience. The second graders kicked off the assembly with a song, followed by performances by Hagan Gold Strings, Concert Band, and Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus. Nassau students really enjoyed the visit and were even keeping time when the band played. That evening, Hagan students reprised their performance at Spring Concert #2 at the high school. Teachers Kody Andreas, Kim Valentine, and Pennie Burgess deserve a round of applause.



Above: Scenes from the Nassau In-School Concert.



Above: Moments from Hagan's Spring Concert #2.



the Lozier Molecular Ecology Lab, spoke to the audience about bee conservation. Sophomores and juniors presented posters in the lobby, while senior speakers Grace Katz, Zackary Heraghty, Mia Eng-Kohn, Ornella Al-Sayah, Irfhan Shaw, Zoe Whalen, Sneha Kamada, and Rachel Li presented in the auditorium and Black Box Theater. Thank you to advisors Jon Latino, Jennifer Maloney, and, of course, Amy Matts. The entire science research community joined in thanking Ms. Matts for her many years of advice and encouragement, as she begins her retirement.

[Click here for a link to the program](#)

## ***Fall Sports Registration***



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

JV/Varsity sports – July 20, 2019

Modified sports – August, 7, 2019

<http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics>

**The start date** for fall sports:

JV/Varsity - August 19, 2019

Modified - September 5, 2019

## ***Exploring Their Own Backyard***

For their most recent Science 21 unit, Mrs. Zanca's second grade class explored biodiversity within Nassau school grounds. They worked in pairs using magnifying glasses and metal spoons. Some animals and plants they were looking for were worms, two legged animals, yellow flowers, ants, and plants with thorns.

## Shout-Out to PTSA

### Volunteer Organization Honored



We are proud to announce that the Spackenkill PTSA has received the Outstanding Unit Program Award from the Taconic Region PTA. "This award is given to promote and encourage the efforts of our PTA units. Good programs don't just happen. They take time, effort and a great deal of organization. They work when they meet the needs of students, staff and the community. Program planning with a purpose provides for good quality PTAs," the Taconic Region PTA announced on its website.

The PTSA cannot run this program alone. We would like to thank Kerry Maslyn, Erin Ruppert, Vickie Setzer, and Carol Hild who have, in recent years, organized this program; the

Spackenkill community for their donations in support of thousands of dollars every year; Adam Hammond and the entire LEO Club for their volunteer efforts; and the district and the BOE in general for helping support the PTSA and this campaign!!



PTSA Officers (left to right) Jodi Girard - Vice President; Rossana Breglia - Vice President; Vickie Setzer - President; and Eileen Mastrantuono - Treasurer. *Not pictured:* Yvette Bairan - Secretary.

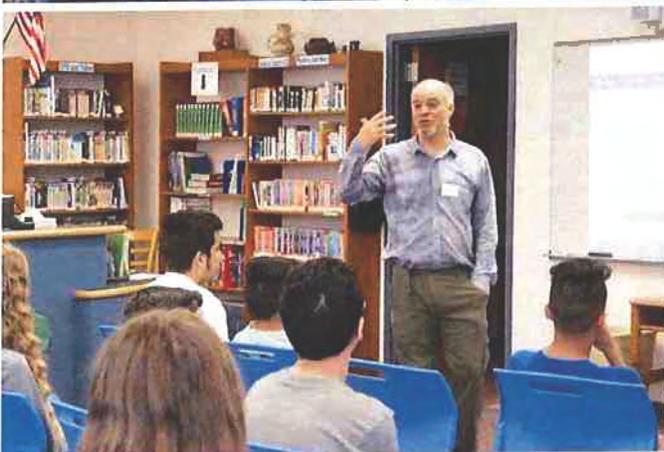
## An Evening of Discovery:

### Students Present Scientific Research

On May 29th, the 13th Annual Science Research symposium took place at Spackenkill High School. Keynote speaker Sam Heraghty, a 2014 Spackenkill graduate and first-year PhD student at the University of Alabama in

## ***Learning About Trades***

Eighth graders learned about the curriculum at BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) on May 29th, when school counselor Kirstin Litwin and English teacher Harrison Barritt came to speak to them in the Todd Library. BOCES is a one- to two-year high school where students can learn a trade. "I didn't realize when I was your age the opportunities existed to learn a trade," said Ms. Litwin. She cited fields like graphics, film, cosmetology that give students skills they need to make extra money and add some flexibility to their lives. Mr. Barritt told the story of a teen who has his own lawn mower and snow removal business, all made possible because he learned how to repair small engines at BOCES. Many of the programs call upon multiple skill sets—for example, auto body students must learn to sketch designs before they paint them on cars. An up-and-coming field is creating video games. "A lot of jobs are disappearing, but these jobs aren't going anywhere soon," he said.



## ***A Step Ahead***

Hagan third graders held two performances of international dances last Friday. Working with the Vanaver Caravan troupe, they learned dances from around the world, which they performed in traditional costumes. In learning the dances, the students also had an opportunity to learn about other cultures. This event is always as much fun for the spectators as it is for the performers. Great job!



### **Todd Students Entertain Tots**

Allison Travis's and Julie Grega's 6th grade reading classes headed to the Mid-Hudson Early Education Center last week in order to perform Aesop's fables for pre-K students. Many of the students were dressed as characters from the stories. After each fable, they announced the moral of the story using words and terms that the younger children could understand. They were a big hit with the little kids, who eagerly watched and applauded.







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@sufsdny.org](mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org)**