Dear Spackenkill Community,

We’ve officially completed the first week of school, and we’re off to a very positive start. Community partnerships remain an important contribution to our district’s success. Partnerships come in many different forms, such as our Cub Scouts, our Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, organizations such as the Mid-Hudson School Study Council, and our facility consultants who advise us concerning capital projects. These are just a few examples that are cited in this week’s What’s Right with Spackenkill!

I want to thank many of you who have taken the time to mention how much you enjoy this newsletter. Frankly, I enjoy it as much as you do. And, finally a shout-out to Mary Forsell, our newsletter editor, whose energy and communications skills are a great asset to the school district.

Sincerely,
Cub Scouts Commemorate 9/11

September 11 is National Day of Service and Remembrance. To commemorate the 16th anniversary of 9/11, Spackenkill Cub Scout Pack 223 placed flags at the entryways to Hagan and Nassau schools. On September 11, students Jack Cohen, Tyler Cookinham, and Luke Wishrad made a morning announcement at Nassau School explaining the significance of the flags. Thank you to cubmaster Jeff Cohen for making this possible.
Flags marked the entrances to both elementary schools on September 11 (above). Principal Nancy Ferrarone with Cub Scouts reading their morning announcement (left).

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**Marco Lanzoni to Be Honored**

Congratulations to Marco Lanzoni! The Spackenkill Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics will receive a Mid-Hudson School Study Council’s Administration Award for Excellence, along with other regional award winners, at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor on October 19. Nominated by Superintendent Villanti, High School Principal Steve Malkischer, and High School Principal’s Secretary and former Varsity Field Hockey Coach Geri Vasely, he is most deserving of this recognition.

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**SRO Teaches Safety**

School Resource Officer (SRO) Chris Hamel (left) spoke to students and staff in all school buildings this week about safety drills that the district will be conducting throughout the year. He gave everyone an easy way to remember the five types: SHELL (Shelter-in-place, Hold-in-place, Evacuation, Lockout, Lockdown). There will be a total of 12 drills this year, as required by New York State. The SRO also spoke at a middle school assembly (below right) about how to stay safe.
online, as Todd students received new Chromebooks this week (below left).

Please Note Calendar Changes

At the September 11th Board of Education meeting the school calendar was changed, moving our Superintendent’s Conference Day from November 7th to November 17th.

This change will allow for K – 5 parent conferences at Nassau and Hagan Elementary Schools. Nassau and Hagan will also host after school parent conferences on November 16th. This change is in response to the NYS Education Department’s interpretation of half days as not meeting attendance requirements. The June half days listed as 19th – 21 for K – 8 are dependent upon weather closings and meeting the minimum attendance requirements as prescribed by education law.
Todd Middle and Spackenkill High School will host staff development activities therefore no students will be in attendance on November 17th.

November 7th is Election Day and Spackenkill High School will serve as a voting location.

**Capital Project Update**

At Open Houses this week, parents and guardians received flyers on the Capital Project outlining the scope of the project and including frequently asked questions. At the September 25 Board of Education meeting, there will be a public hearing on the project that will be live-streamed on the Spackenkill website. The vote is tentatively set for Tuesday, December 5th at the high school from 7 AM to 9 PM.

The scope includes new roofs (all roofs are leaking, have been repaired, and will no longer qualify for warranties) at each school; ADA compliance requirements, especially at the school entrances; mechanical needs such as HVAC / ventilation (current units are original school equipment); and finally upgrades to our high school field and track.

Please attend and bring questions.
Dutchess County Offers Citizens Preparedness Training

The recent events of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma highlight the importance of being prepared. In September, the Dutchess County Departments of Behavioral & Community Health and Emergency Response recognize National Preparedness Month, an effort to strengthen awareness and preparedness capabilities. Citizens Preparedness Training will be held on September 19th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the DBCH Training Room, located at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Another Citizens Preparedness Training session will be held on September 26th at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 1949 in the Town of Dover. For more information, contact Mario Gonzales at (845) 486-3534 or email mgonzales@dutchessny.gov.