Dear Spackenkill Community,

In this issue, two of our tuition students are featured in an interview with Mary Forsell. At Haldane, we also had a tuition program, and I am finding the same experience here at Spackenkill that our tuition students add a very positive component to our school culture. I just completed a mid-year review of their academic performance and pleased to observe that all of them are demonstrating good progress in all four schools.

We are now accepting applications for tuition students. We have another seven applications pending for next year. If you know of someone that you feel would be a good fit for Spackenkill please encourage the family to contact the district office. There are 4 steps to process.

1. Complete an application at the District Office.
2. Participate in an interview with the superintendent.
3. Visit their respective school with the principal and for older students shadow a student in class.
4. Final acceptance and a tuition deposit.

As a former school guidance counselor, I know how important the role of school counseling can be in the lives of our student body. Thank you counselors for your service and happy National School Counseling Week!

My best,
The Athletics Department held a college commitment letter signing for student-athletes Rachel Curatolo and Mason Moskowitz. Rachel will be attending SUNY Cortland for Girls Golf. Mason Moskowitz will attend Cleveland State for Fencing. Athletics Director Marco Lanzoni and the students' coaches spoke at the signing, with many students in attendance. "They not only get it done in sports, but they get it done in the classroom, and I'm sure that's gone a long way in getting into the great colleges that they did," said Mr. Lanzoni. "It's a credit to our staff, our teachers, and our parents." Congratulations to our athletes!

Click here or on the image above to watch a video of the signing.
Above: The students are shown with their families, as well as signing their letters of intent.

National School Counselor Week

National School Counseling Week 2020, “School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans,” was celebrated from Feb. 3-7, 2020, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. National School Counseling Week is always celebrated the first full week in February. We would like to recognize our counselors: At the high school, Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotter, Kathleen DeFreest, and Adam Hammond. At the middle school: Mary Camburn and Kristen Gil.
Above, clockwise from left: Kristen Gil and Mary Camburn, Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotler (holding a pennant from her alma mater) and Adam Hammond. Not pictured is Kathleen DeFreest. All of these counselors are instrumental in helping students succeed.

**SHS Hosts Town Hall**

About 150 people came out on Superbowl Sunday to attend a “town hall” discussion with Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney at Spackenkill High School. The community had the opportunity to speak directly with their congressman and get help with federal services. Many topics came up during this lively event, including infrastructure, climate goals, the Fairness Doctrine, transitioning to Medicare, vaccinations, and scam phone calls. Spackenkill Cub Scout Pack 223 was also there and participated in the Valentines for Veterans program, writing messages to veterans in cards. One scout even asked the Congressman a question during the event.
Making the Switch:
A Talk with Two Tuition Students

Now that the tuition program is in its third year, we thought it would be interesting to talk to two students who are enjoying success at Spackenkill. Tess Turner (far left) is a sophomore in her first year at Spackenkill High School and Celine Lee (near right) is a junior who is in her second year here. Both transferred from a small private school.
Whose idea was it for you to come to Spackenkill? Yours or your parents?

Tess: It was me. I was interested in switching schools. I was at a really small school and I wanted to be pushed a little harder in a new environment. I live in the Arlington District, and I was thinking of going there, but it is such a big school. It was more comfortable for me to switch over to something less intense.

Celine: I switched for a similar reason. I used to be in a smaller school and I wanted to study in a new environment and to excel at the next level. I felt that the school wasn't pressuring me enough. I wanted to be in a more diverse school, and my last school wasn't as diverse. Also I think the teachers there taught in a similar style, but here there are a lot of different styles.

What are you getting here that you hadn't gotten before?

Tess: I've heard a lot of positive things about the science research program. There are a lot of options for sports: I did cross country and I'm thinking of doing track, which we didn't have at my old school.

Celine: As a junior I need to fill my transcript with different extracurricular activities and volunteer. Here there's actually a club for volunteer service, LEO club. Last year I joined, and I got to do a lot of volunteer activities in and out of school.

(Interview is briefly interrupted by a lockdown drill, which prompts the comment from Tess: "I think maybe I had one lockdown drill at my previous school. It's good that there's this level of safety here.")

What are your college and potential career interests?

Tess: I want to possibly be a vet. That would be really cool. So I would say I have an interest in science. I've always been amazed by the environment.

Celine: I'm currently interested in very different things—art, math, science—so I'm going to go into college undecided. Right now I'm looking into psychology and neuroscience.

How do you spend your time outside of school?

Tess: I play guitar and I'm on a swim team outside of school.

Celine: In the summer I'm in a chorus outside the school. I also do yoga in my free time. I try to jog or go to the gym. For my volunteer hours, I'm working as a receptionist in the Vassar Art Center. I can do my homework and multitask.

You both take difficult classes and have big workloads. How do you balance that?

Celine: At Spackenkill, unlike the private school I went to before this school, we have to take the Regents and also AP exams. Regents is coming up in
June and the AP are coming up, too, so I have to prepare for both and that's kind of tough, but as long as you do your work you should be fine.

Tess: I'm definitely getting more work than before, but the teachers are good at communicating. If you have questions you're able to ask them. I think in a larger environment it would be harder. The teachers are good at engaging the students.

Science Research Student Published

Senior Leo Herrera has been included as a co-author on a scholarly paper published in the *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* for his role in a research project regarding breast cancer. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment!

Click here to read the article.

Above: Leo (center) is shown with his proud science research teachers John Latino and Jennifer Maloney.

Sparrow’s Nest Fundraiser Returns

Sparrow’s Nest continues its amazing work by feeding families in our area affected by cancer. They are currently feeding 350 people in Dutchess, Ulster, Westchester, and Orange Counties, by providing two meals per week. Meals are created by a crew of volunteers in the Sparrow’s Nest kitchen in Wappingers Falls and are delivered by volunteer drivers.

In support of this mission, Speckenkill teachers Geraldine LaGasse and Jen Wilson (Hagan) and Kim Rogers and Karin McGutra (Todd) raised over $10,000 in 2019 and have completed long distance running events in Orlando, Florida, and Newport, Rhode Island, as part of Team Sparrow. They
plan to keep going in 2020 as they kick off their fundraising efforts for the sixth consecutive year!

Please consider participating in Sparrow's Nest Day on March 27, 2020, as declared by both NYS Senator Sue Serino and Dutchess County Executive Mark Molinaro, by purchasing a Sparrow's Nest shirt.

Above: The teachers participated in races up and down the East Coast last year to raise money for Sparrow's Nest.

Register for Spring Sports

Spring Sports Registration!

The Spackenkill Athletics Department is now offering the convenience of online registration through FamilyID (www.familyid.com). FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides you with an easy, user-friendly way to register for sports, and helps us to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible.

Online Spring Sports registration opens:
February 7th for all high school sports (JV and Varsity)
February 13th for all middle school (modified) sports

Click on the link below to register:
http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics

Spring Sports Start Dates:
March 9, 2020 – Varsity/JV
March 16, 2020 – Modified

Transportation Notice

Parents and guardians must have requests for private providers to the Spackenkill UFSD Transportation Department by April 1. Requests must be filed every year. For more information, please call Doreen Wright, Director of Transportation: 463-7800.

- Print a Request for Private/Parochial School Transportation
- Print a Request for Daycare Transportation

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will take place at Nassau School on Wednesday, February 19th and Thursday, February 20th, between the hours of 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Please click here to read a letter from Principal Erik Lynch to incoming families regarding the registration process.

Please click here to read a letter from Principal Erik Lynch highlighting important dates.

Please click here to download and print the registration packet.

The Harlem Wizards are coming to town! Save the Date: March 13th, 7 pm SHS Gym. This fundraiser is sponsored by the Elementary PTA.
In anticipation of the upcoming Elementary PTA Basketball Fundraiser (Harlem Wizards vs. Spackenkill staff), Big J from the Wizards visited Spackenkill this week. Not only did he do some fun tricks while interacting with students at the elementary schools, but he also promoted the Wizards' character education mission, discussing topics like teamwork, respect, hard work, integrity, kindness, and anti-bullying. He dropped in on sixth graders during their lunchtime and also played ball with Todd PE classes.

Please click here or on the image above to see Big J interacting with Nassau Principal Erik Lynch.
A Community of Learners

Mrs. Strapec's second graders have been busy learning about communities. The children have read many books on urban, suburban, and rural communities. The students worked in groups to make Tree Thinking Maps to classify the information they were learning. The students enjoyed writing about these types of communities in class as well as make great illustrations to go with their writing. Some students are having fun noticing things that they are learning in class while they are out and about and visiting different types of communities. One student was so excited to actually get the chance to ride on a subway while another student was able to see a silo while visiting family in the country. One student decided to make a community out of
Legos at home. The parent emailed Mrs. Strapec over the weekend and she was so delighted to hear that the things she is teaching in class are being discussed and extended at home without her asking. Great job, second graders!

Above: Second graders explore the different types of communities we live in. Here they are creating thinking maps and illustrations.

Poetry Celebration

The Poetry Out Loud National Recitation regional contest took place on January 29 at SUNY New Paltz. Spackenkill sophomores Amanda Moore and Carlie Sjogren competed along with 12 other students from area high schools. Kudos to both students for doing an exceptional job!
Above: Student Amanda Moore (holding up program) with faculty members (left to right) Randy Calderone, Ashley Joy, Jennifer Fahy, Maureen Tremblay, and Christine Scivolette.

Above: Carlie Sjogren (left) and Amanda Moore (right) at the competition.
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