Dear Spackenkill Community,

As you thumb through this newsletter, two prevailing themes seem to emerge – celebrating the end of the school year by letting off some steam (and having fun outdoors) and learning that involves hands-on projects. Many people believe that the "high stakes testing" initiative in New York State has taken over our schools and takes the fun out of learning. I beg to differ. There is a path through the maze of testing that allows for a balanced approach. In the meantime, learning can be fun and from the looks of this week that certainly seems to be the case.

Friday is a busy day with Hagan's moving up ceremony in the morning and the High School's commencement ceremony at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center at 6 pm. Orville Todd's moving up ceremony is Tuesday morning.

I hope that each of your children had a positive school year. We will greatly miss the Class of 2019. Classes start for students September 5th (with kindergarten starting on September 4th). Thank you, everyone, for making this a great school year!

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Important Notice Regarding Vaccinations

Please Click Here to Read FAQ About Non-Medical Exemptions for School Vaccination Requirements

Declaración sobre la legislación que elimina la exención no médica de los requisitos de vacunación escolar

Kids Enjoy Free Summer Meals

In 2018, the USDA's summer food service program provided more than 1.5 million nutritious meals and snacks to children when school was not in session.

Click here to find summer meals in your community.

Click here for a fact sheet in English.

Click here for a fact sheet in Spanish.

Fun Adds Up

Fourth and fifth grade enrichment students at Hagan treated the school to a Math Carnival last Friday. There were a variety of fun games like Math Skee Ball and Math Balloons. Each game had a math twist—for example, having to answer multiplication questions before getting to throw a ball or squirt a water bottle, or having to answer questions before advancing in the game.
Click here to watch a quick video of third grade multiplication skills!

Attention Graduating Seniors!

Please click here to join the Spackenkill Alumni Association

Finding France at Home

Mme Hart's French students took a trip to New York City on June 8th. They traveled by train, went to the famous Ladurée macaron bakery, visited the French Embassy's bookstore (Albertine), walked through Central Park, had lunch at La Bonne Soupe (French restaurant), and visited the MoMA before taking the train back home in the
evening. "With the exception of the MoMA, every place we visited was French speaking," said Mme Hart. "At the MoMA, students were able to see the very works they study in class. It was a great day and we had beautiful weather. We encountered many French speakers on the street; the students would whisper to me, "Madame, they're speaking French!" It was great to see them so excited to see how much French there is right in our own backyard!"

Sporty Super Heroes

This year, Nassau had two field days: one for kindergartners and another for the first and second graders. All the field days had a superhero theme, with some games inspired by projects proposed by high school physics students. Students especially enjoyed the slip'n'slide and the Spidey Relay, in which students crawled under a "web" and ran around obstacles while dodging water sprays. Aquaman was spotted at the kindergarten field day! Thank you to the many parent volunteers who made these events a success!
Above: scenes from Kindergarten Field Day.
Above: Scenes from First and Second Grade Field Day.

**Video Earns Director's Choice Award**

Spackenkill students were celebrated at the Montefiore Hudson Valley Collaborative Vaping Prevention PSA Awards Ceremony, held at United Artists movie theater in Mohegan Lake on June 12th. Senior Philip Rottkamp won a Director’s Choice Award for his video that he wrote, storyboarded, filmed, and edited. Fellow students Erik Adolsson, Matt Sanzo, and Chris Platek were actors in the video.

With touches like a balloon arch at the entrance to the movie theater lobby, red carpet, swag bags for the kids, and photos taken in front of the step-and-repeat banner, the event had a glamorous, professional atmosphere. There were showings of many of the top PSAs on the big movie screen before the awards presentation.

It's important to note that other winners were school-organized projects, while Philip tackled it on his own after hearing about it through participation in a youth organization. *(It should be noted that Mrs. Chaoussoglou distributed a flyer to Spackenkill students, which you can access by clicking here.)* All in all, it was a great experience for the students. Congratulations!

[Click here to read a Poughkeepsie Journal article about these students that ran on Thursday, June 20th.]
Above, clockwise from left: Having their pictures taken in front of the official banner; enjoying a movie experience; from left to right, Chris Piatek, Matt Sanzo, Erik Adolfsson, Philip Rottkamp, and Dr. Damara Gutnick, Director of Montefiore Hudson Valley Collaborative.

Screen Time
Maureen Tremblay's AP students recently took time out to watch the movie *Schindler's List* after school in the library. The historical period drama takes place during the Holocaust.

**Strings Attached**

Ms. Valentine visited Nassau School this week and last to measure second graders for stringed instruments. She is shown below using a special violin measuring stick to get the perfect fit for each student. She also helped each student play a tune on the violin to give them a preview of what it's like to play the instrument. It was exciting for the students to think that at this time next year, they'll be able to play a song all by themselves!

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**Tourists at Hagan**

Mr. Simmonds's fifth graders studied regions of the United States this year. Each week, students would bring in foods from their regions to share. For a culminating assignment, students prepared tourism display boards for an assigned region of the United States featuring 10 points of interest to visit. The students used Google Maps to calculate mileage charts measuring the distance from each point of interest and included 7 to 10 artifacts from their region as well in their display. It was fun for other Hagan students to visit the cafeteria to take a tour and maybe even get some vacation ideas. Some examples are below.
Mrs. Stout's third graders held their very own World's Fair last Wednesday. Each student prepared a Google slide presentation about a particular country and its traditions. For example, visitors learned about Italian food, The Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, and the Skytree Building in Tokyo. So much research went into these presentations, and it was evident in the detailed illustrations and wealth of information in each one. After all students had presented, family and friends chatted with them about their work, and students had the opportunity to show even more detailed information on their Chromebooks. Not only did they get to practice public speaking, but they also learned how to use technology effectively. Afterward, students and visitors enjoyed international foods. Click here to see the program.
Team Todd

Todd students celebrated a successful school year with a combination picnic/field day. Though the weather was soggy, the students and staff had fun in the gym. Teachers were victorious in tug of war!
Thank you to everyone who supported the Cookies for Kids Cancer fundraiser. Due to Vanessa Aagaard and Nadine Deeb's independent drive and effort, $501 was raised. If you see Vanessa (near left) or Nadine (far left) please congratulate and thank them for their efforts to benefit others.
Elementary Spring Fling

On Thursday, June 6th, over 300 students and their families enjoyed a wonderful night at the Elementary Spring Fling for both Hagan and Nassau families. It was a night of dancing, face painting, socializing, and fun! Children danced the night away as a DJ kept the music playing. Many children enjoyed playing sports, such as soccer and volleyball. Others enjoyed having their faces painted and participating in good old-fashioned potato sack relays, spoon races, and three-legged races. Fabulous gift baskets created by each class, through generous donations from students, were also raffled off to benefit Sparrows Nest. Many families went home happy winners and all were glad to give to a wonderful cause. Everyone enjoyed socializing and building community on a beautiful night!
To the Zoo...

On Tuesday, June 4th all of the Hagan third graders took a great trip to the Bronx Zoo with their teachers and many wonderful parents and grandparents. Children enjoyed exploring the zoo on a beautiful day as a nice wrap-up to all they had learned all year about animals and habitats around the world.
**Skeleton Crew**

In science, fifth graders in Mrs. Wilson's and Mrs. LaGasse's class are studying the bones in the human body. They are making models of our skeletal system using various shapes and sizes of pretzels. They look like surgeons leaning over the table!
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-uftd-athletics

The start date for fall sports:

JV/Varsity - August 19, 2019

Modified - September 5, 2019

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(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