Dear Spackenkill Community,

This newsletter is chock-a-block with news, so where should I start? Let me focus once again on the coronavirus, since we have received several emails from concerned parents. Included in this issue are links to the major governmental health organizations that we have been conferring with regularly. Yesterday, for example, I participated in a phone conference with over 70 regional superintendents, the NYS Department of Health, and the Governor’s Office. We are being updated almost daily.

Flu has a seasonal component. When the weather warms up, cases of flu lessen. Hopefully, that will occur with the coronavirus. We could then expect all types of flu to rise again next year during flu season, which typically runs in the early winter.

The other major question that I have received concerns school closures. We asked for guidance from the State on this issue and were told that this is a case-by-case or district-by-district decision. There is no one right answer as yet. For example, two Westchester County schools have closed for two days for cleaning purposes. Other districts have remained open while impacted individuals remain quarantined at home.
To quote the CDC, "Older people and people with severe chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes, are at higher risk of developing more serious illness from COVID-19." Given our district's extensive use of technology, our capacity is ahead of many other area school districts.

We will continue to update and post health guidance on our web page. We are working diligently to institute the recommendations that we have received from the health department and to prevent the spread of this illness.

My best,

[Signature]

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Coronavirus Information

- Please click on this link for the CDC website with guidance on how to prepare for and take action on the coronavirus.
- Please click on this COVID-19 update for Spackenkill from Emergency One.
- Please click on this link from the Dutchess County Department of Health.
- Please click on this link from the New York State Department of Health.
- Please click here to read a message from the Superintendent sent to parents/guardians on Feb. 5, 2020, regarding coronavirus.

Track and Field Survey Coming Soon

Next week, we will post a Survey on Community Use of the Track and Field on spackenkillschools.org and in this newsletter. Community members, parents/guardians, staff, and students are encouraged to take the survey. The Board of Education appreciates your participation. Results of the survey will guide the Board in deciding on
a policy for community use of the track and field. Stay tuned!

STEM Fair Explores Intriguing Topics

At the Hagan STEM Fair this week, students presented a range of projects that explored topics that are relevant to us all. Topic titles reflect many aspects of contemporary life that warrant investigation. "Which Insulation Would You Choose?" "How to Build a Solar Car," "Find the Mold," "Planning Ahead for the Planet: Burning Bio Fuels," and "Which Drink Is Best for Running?" are just a few of the topics that the students tackled. Great job, everyone! You made it very difficult for the judges to decide on the winners. Mr. Farrell congratulated all the fifth graders. "We know how much time and energy you've put into the work displayed here," he said. He also thanked the teachers and parents who supported the students. Please click here for a list of winners, who are eligible to compete in the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair. Congratulations!

Above: Scenes from the STEM Fair.
Above: All of the STEM Fair winners with Principal Farrell.

Above, first place winners, left to right: Sehaj Munder, Zeno Parker-Stark, Mikayla Macklin, Marissa Geraci-Peck, and Amalia Parsons.

Above, second place winners, left to right: Shanum Choudhury, Alexis Thompson, Cadence Koehler, and Isaac Long.
Above, third place winners, left to right: Henry Stock, Brielyn Freeman, Lily Wollman, Gail Geva, Gabriella Costagliola, Bella Yao, and Rachel Park.

Above, STA winners, left to right: Sophia Gilmore, Kendall McGinley, Parker Danforth, and Owen Mooney.

**Proud to Be Americans**

First graders put on the annual Presidents Play on Wednesday, to the absolute delight of an audience of family, friends, and staff. The play emphasized the importance of freedom and indivisibility. It was impressive to see how the students remembered their lines, song lyrics, and movements. Students sang out the names of the presidents loud and clear and presented information in particular about the lives of Washington and Lincoln.
Click here or on the above image to hear a snippet of the Presidents Song.

Click here or on the image above to listen to students showing appreciation for their country.

Click here or on the image above to listen to students talk about George Washington.

MS Math Students Compete
Congratulations to Todd’s Mathcounts Team for recently participating in the chapter-level competition held at Dutchess Community College. Daniel Johnson and Andy Zhu have qualified to move to the state-level competition at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Albany on March 7 as individual participants. Daniel Johnson also finished third among all participating students at the chapter-level competition. Well done by all!

Above, left to right: Team coach Mr. Kamada, Elena Sung, Joshua Wu, Akram Almady, Daniel Jea, Daniel Johnson, Andy Zhu, and Omar Anwar.

Information for Prospective Board Candidates

- Board Candidate Packets
- Important Dates for Prospective Board Candidates

A Prospective Board Members Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9 to 11 am at the BOCES Administration Building, 5 BOCES Road in Poughkeepsie, just off Salt Point Turnpike.

Anyone considering running for election to a local school board is invited to attend. Current school board members and a superintendent of schools will join a school attorney to give a broad perspective of the role of a school board member. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations. There is NO fee for this workshop, which is presented as a community service.

However, to ensure sufficient seating and handouts, REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED.
Computer Science for the Future

On February 21st, Mrs. Fletcher’s AP Computer Science Principles class visited Marist’s networking and cyber-security departments. The professors really welcomed the class, and the students were able to observe many of the concepts they had learned about in class in a real-world application.

Highlights from Shrek

_Shrek the Musical, Jr._, at Todd was an incredible success. Congratulations to the cast and crew, as well as to Mr. Shanks and Mr. K. for making it happen. Please take a look at the complete album of highlights by clicking on this link or on the image below.
Leo Club Stuffs for Scholarships

Leo Club members met after school last week to stuff envelopes for the annual Dollars for Seniors fundraising drive. Expect your letter to arrive in the mail soon. Any help that you can give during this mail-in campaign will be appreciated by the PTSA and especially by the college-bound seniors who benefit from these awards. Thank you to Dollars for Seniors Committee Chairperson Kerry Maslyn and Leo Club advisor Adam Hammond for organizing this event.
Music Teacher Presents at Conference

On the weekend of February 22, elementary music teacher Kody Andreas presented a workshop at the 2020 New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) State Music Conference in Atlantic City. Titled "How Far I'll Go," the workshop is all about incorporating popular children's media into the early childhood classroom. Two years ago, Mr. Andreas presented the same workshop at the 2018 Early Childhood Music & Movement (ECMMA) International Convention, Congratulations on another successful event!
Above: Kody Andreas demonstrates how to add interest to early childhood music lessons.

**Spack Onstage Presents Its Spring Musical**

Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney animated feature, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* showcases the film’s Academy Award-nominated score, as well as new songs by Menken and Schwartz.

The musical begins as the bells of Notre Dame sound through the famed cathedral in fifteenth-century Paris. Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer who longs to be "Out There," observes all of Paris reveling in the Feast...
Spackenkill High School’s
SPACK
Presents
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
A NEW MUSICAL
BASED ON THE VICTOR Hugo NOVEL AND SONGS FROM THE ORIGINAL
March 27 - 7:00 pm
March 28 - 7:00 pm
March 29 - 2:00 pm
Spackenkill High School
Richard D. Woolley Auditorium
112 Spackenkill Rd, Poughkeepsie NY
For tickets and information, visit spackonstage.com

Held captive by his devious caretaker, the archdeacon Dom Claude Frollo, he escapes for the day and joins the boisterous crowd, only to be treated cruelly by all but the beautiful gypsy, Esmeralda. Quasimodo isn’t the only one captivated by her free spirit, though — the handsome Captain Phoebus and Frollo are equally enthralled. As the three vie for her attention, Frollo embarks on a mission to destroy the gypsies — and it’s up to Quasimodo to save them all.

A sweeping score and powerful story make The Hunchback of Notre Dame an instant classic. Audiences will be swept away by the magic of this truly unforgettable musical!!!

Don’t wait! Purchase your reserved seats TODAY at www.spackonstage.com

For latest updates, information and pics follow Spack Onstage on social media:
Jazz Night!

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Todd Middle School Cafeteria

A Special Evening of
LIVE JAZZ
Performed by our very own
HS Orchestra, Jazz Band, Chorus, Saxophone Quartet
and Middle School Jazz Band
Accompanied with
Delicious Desserts
Coffee, Tea, Silent Auction & Raffles
PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC BOOSTERS OF SPACERILL

Art Show to Feature Spack Students

This weekend, the opening reception for the John Iyoya Children’s Art Exhibit will take place at Vassar College. The show runs until March 13th (please see details below). Artwork of some 50 Todd students and 50-plus elementary students will be on display. Artwork from three Todd students was featured in the mailing postcards created to promote the show, which runs until March 13th. Stop by on Sunday if you can to see the art first-hand and congratulate the students.
Above: Todd art students whose work is featured on postcards for the Celebration of Children's Art show gathered for a photo with Principal Dan Doherty. Congratulations to students (left to right) Julia DeLaurentis, grade 8; Tamar Hyman-Fessler, grade 8; and Meribelle Stringham, grade 6.

All Over the Map
As part of their science unit, Mrs. Zanca/Mrs. Christolos’s and Mrs Wilcox’s classes worked together to create maps of landforms and bodies of water. They included mountains, rivers, lakes, islands, plains, and oceans.

A Message to Veterans

A program for veterans to receive high school diplomas became a law November 11, 2019, with the approval of the Governor. Under the law, the Commissioner of Education will develop a program whereby any veteran of the Armed Forces who has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and who was unable, for any reason, to complete a secondary education, may be awarded a high school diploma based on knowledge and experience gained while in service. If you are a veteran who fits these criteria or know of someone who does, please contact Spackenkill High School Principal Steve Maltischer: 845-463-7810.

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

The Harlem Wizards are coming to town! Save the Date: March 13th, 7 pm
SHS Gym. This fundraiser is sponsored by the Elementary PTA.

Click here to get your tickets!

Mardi Gras Memories

Last week at the high school, the French Club hosted a Mardi Gras celebration. The students enjoyed three kinds of jambalaya (chicken and sausage stew; spicy jambalaya; and a chicken, andouille sausage, and shrimp combo). All were equally delicious.

There were also six king cakes. The tradition is to bake a small figurine inside the cake. Whoever receives the piece of cake with the figurine in it is the king (hence the crown). He/she is supposed to have good luck throughout the year and is also responsible for making the cake the following year!

Also at the celebration were craft materials for making masks for masquerade. For authenticity's sake, the students listened to New Orleans Carnaval music and big brass parade bands during the party. Thank you to Mme Hart for organizing this event.
Above, clockwise from top left: The French Club's Mardi Gras celebration included a mask-making activity, a variety of jambalaya dishes, traditional king cake, and a good-luck crown for the king cake winner.

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