Dear Spackenkill Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Our first 2017 edition of What's Right with Spackenkill! salutes brain power, serving the community, and gratefulness for the community partnerships that support our school district. I know that the High School is exceptionally proud of our senior class, who have worked very hard during their 12 years in the district and are now reaping their rewards through college acceptances. Congratulations, senior class! In addition, our math students at the High School are excelling through competitions, challenging themselves to get better. Of course, service is all over the school district, from elementary teacher Brian Alnwick to the Girls Basketball Team to the LEO Club. Let's not forget service peer to peer, as our sixth graders read original works to our kindergarten students.

Finally, we appreciate the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for educating our Todd staff.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Interim/Acting Superintendent

HS Senior Up for Prestigious Award

Senior Vincent Li has been selected as a Semifinalist in the 2016-17 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Vincent moved from a field of some 86,000 applicants to a pool of 1,914 semifinalists. He was nominated by guidance counselor Katherine DeFreest for his outstanding leadership, academic achievements, and dedication to community. After a review of the applications by a committee, 250 Semifinalists will advance as Regional Finalists, with 150 becoming Coca-Cola Scholars and recipients of scholarships.

Hagan Teacher to Be Honored

Hagan Elementary teacher Brian Alnwick and his family will be honored for their longtime contributions to the Claudio Cares Foundation at its 4th Annual Snowflake Gala on February 10. Other annual fundraisers by the organization include Stuff the Bus/Claudio Cares Can Drive, Claudio Cares Car Show, and Golf Tournament.

The foundation’s main purpose and goal is to inspire young adults to achieve and earn greatness and to help them realize immediate and lasting changes in their lives and in the lives of others. Claudio Cares has awarded numerous scholarships to graduating seniors in every district in Dutchess County and donated complete computer labs to several local schools.

Kudos to the Alnwick family for their dedicated service.

For more information about the foundation please visit:
http://www.claudiocares.com/
Girls Basketball Plays for a Cause

The Spackenkill Girls Basketball Team played on December 30 in the Holiday Classic Tournament to benefit Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. Don Neise, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, coordinated another successful two-day event, which took place on December 27 at Highland HS and December 30 at Spackenkill. In addition to Spackenkill and Highland, the following teams participated: Beacon, FDR, Pine Plains, John Jay, Arlington, and Millbrook. Donations were collected at both sites for Miles of Hope.

Above: Kudos to Coach Neise and Noelle Mancini, who was named to the Holiday Classic All-Tournament Team.

LEO Club Wraps Up 2016

This past holiday season, LEO Club supported 20 families (60 children) with necessities like coats and boots as well as many fun gifts. The Town of Poughkeepsie PBA supported the efforts with boxes of food, while our nurses and social workers went above and beyond and worked quickly to determine the needs of our families. LEO Club and the PBA were recently mentioned in an article in the Southern Dutchess News as well as on Hudson Valley News Network. Please click this link to read the story or visit https:// goo.gl/WdWtPj

NYML Results

The New York Mathematics League (NYML) results are in: Congratulations to Anya Justin, who had the only perfect score of 6 in the NYML contest. Vincent Li and Leah Mozeshtam each scored 5, while Jeana Chun, Zachary Johnson, Sneha Kamada, Rachel Li, Adele Long, Cynthia Ma, Anshuman Swain, Robert Waxman and Andrew Wu each scored 4.

College Acceptances Keep Rolling In

Our high school guidance counselors report that our seniors continue to receive college acceptances. Here are the latest, in alphabetical order. Stay tuned for more:

- Binghamton University
- Binghamton University (School of Management)
- Binghamton University (Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science)
- Buffalo State College of SUNY
- Culinary Institute of America
- D’Youville College
- University of Delaware
- Hartwick College
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University (School of Engineering)
- Keuka College
- Marist College
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Michigan (Engineering)
- Mount Saint Mary College
- Northeastern University (College of Engineering)
- Northeastern University (D’Amore-McKim School of Business)
- Ohio Northern University
- Ohio University
- Rider University
- Sage College of Albany
- State University of New York at Albany
- SUNY Alfred State College
- SUNY College at Brockport
- SUNY College at Cortland
- SUNY College at Oneonta
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- The University of Texas, Dallas
- The Ohio State University
- University at Buffalo The State University of New York
- West Virginia University
- Widener University
Katie Lynch, standing above right, Development Manager, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of White Plains, was joined by Amy Brown, standing above left, a nurse from Vassar Brothers Medical Center, to speak to staff about the challenges of living with CF. Thank you to Todd Nurse Elizabeth Giancaspro for arranging the informational talk.

Todd Middle School students celebrated the holidays on the last day before the break (December 23) with a Winter Wonderland celebration in the gymnasium. Thank you to Todd Student Government and Advisor Norma Vazquez for putting on this special event.

Sixth grade ELA students from Mrs. Travis’s class read original picture books they wrote to students in the kindergarten classes of Mrs. West, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Engle, and Mrs. Davis on Thursday, January 5. The stories share the theme that anyone can be a hero. This past November, students read their books to visiting preschoolers from the Mid-Hudson Early Education Center. “The stories were so well received and students were so enthusiastic that we wanted to share them with more students in our community!” said Mrs. Travis. Mrs. Sobrin, Mrs. Camburn, and Mrs. Cunningham also joined the students on the trip.

Students at Nassau attended a fun and informative Train Safety Presentation on Friday, January 6. It was led by Allison Lester, above left, a former conductor with Metro-North who now leads safety presentations. The students learned about what to do at a railroad crossing, where to stand on a train platform, and what precautions to take near tracks. They also identified signs and their meanings. As a bonus, the students were the first to receive a new coloring book featuring mascots Metro-Man and Tracks the Dog, above right.

Above: Mrs. Drummond greeted one of her former kindergarten students, now in sixth grade.