Dear Spackenkill Community,

The end of the school year is growing closer. We all feel pressure at this time of year. Students feel the pressure of end-of-year grading and exams; teachers feel the pressure of finishing their curriculum; and administrators attend many evening special activities. "Winding down" is not in our vocabulary at this time of year. As a former guidance counselor, I often reminded students that 40% of their final grades are determined from quarter 4 and final testing.

On Tuesday, I attended the Science Symposium at the high school, speaking to several 10th graders about this issue of "pressure." I was surprised by their responses. They seem to thrive in a climate of challenging academic demands. Of course, that may not be true for everyone, so if you are one of the students that "pressure" is having a negative impact on, please talk to someone. One of the best strategies to deal with stress is acknowledging it and talking about it.

One of the hallmarks of great school districts is that learning is not just acquiring knowledge. Effective learning requires students to construct, reflect, and produce. As you scroll through this newsletter, you will observe students performing musically, creating designs for a new concession stand, demonstrating safe biking, and running for fun and good health.

Reminder: At the June 4th BOE meeting, our construction manager will provide the bids for the long-awaited track and field followed by our Celebration of Successes meeting.

My best,
Jr. Spartans Running Club Sprints to Victory

Program Thriving in Its Third Year

The Hagan Jr. Spartan Running Club successfully held its 5K Race at Vassar Farms on May 23rd. The students followed a course that looped down a scenic road. Family, friends, and staff supplied water and words of encouragement to the runners. The runners practiced what they'd been taught by Brian Alnwick and other teachers who spearheaded this project: To jog and not run full out so that they wouldn't run out of steam. The Hagan students were joined by a running club from Hyde Park as well. Even though a few rain drops fell before the race began, the club had it all under control, with school buses at the ready in case they needed to seek shelter from a storm. Everything went off without a hitch. Afterward, the students enjoyed well-deserved ice cream.

Click here for a video of the start of the race.

Dutchess County Honors Scholars
The Dutchess County Honor Student Recognition Breakfast was held on May 22nd at the Poughkeepsie Grandview. Seniors Mia Eng-Kohn and Jonathan Waxman were recognized for their achievements. Mia plans on attending Barnard College to pursue a career in medicine, focused in biological studies and neuroscience with a minor in an art history or language. Jonathan plans on attending Rochester Institute of Technology, pursuing a career in computer science with the hopes of becoming a programmer. Congratulations to the students and their families!

Click here to read the program.

Above, pictured left to right are Wendy and Jonathan Waxman; Bradley, Mia, and Carla Eng-Kohn; SHS Principal Steve Malkischer, Board Trustee Mary Sawyer; and Superintendent Mark Villanti.

Superintendents Commend Select Group

The Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents held the 54th Annual Carroll F. Johnson Scholastic Achievement Dinner in Tarrytown on May 22nd. Congratulations to honorees (pictured with Principal Steve Malkischer, from left to right) Ayanfe Adebajo (Opportunity Scholarship Winner), Rachel Li, and Grace Katz.

Click here for the program.
Join LEO Club in...

**The Remembrance Walk**

Join us as we walk, share our stories, and release lanterns in memory of those we have lost. Recent events both in our community and nationwide have impacted all of us. Please join us to recognize our loved ones together in a powerful way.

**May 31st**
7:30pm-8:30pm
Spackenkill HS Track

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**Amy Matts Named Top Teacher**

We are pleased to announce that high school science teacher Amy Matts is the 2019 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Teaching High School Chemistry from the Northeast Region of the American Chemical Society. Mrs. Matts will receive the award, which comes with an honorarium of $1,000 and a plaque for her and Spackenkill High School, at a ceremony in Saratoga Springs on June 25th. This is particularly well timed as Mrs. Matts is retiring this year. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor! For more information, please visit

https://www.acsnerm.org/ched-high-school-teacher-award

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**Bicycle Rodeo Teaches Safety First**

Hagan third graders got a lesson in bicycle safety on Tuesday, May 21st from the Town of Poughkeepsie Police, Traffic Safety Enforcement. Students learned the importance of wearing a bike helmet to cushion any falls and were also instructed in how to ride safely, observe stop signs, and look left and right before crossing the road. Thank you to the officers who assisted as well as the parent volunteers!
Awards Recognize Nine Exceptional Juniors

On May 23rd, the Junior Achievement Awards took place in the Black Box Theater at Spackenkill High School. Principal Steve Malkischer recognized nine juniors who have made outstanding contributions. In order of awards received, congratulations to Sabiha Hossain, Sabah Choudhury, Hodo Duale, Robert DeLaurentis, Erik Adolfsson, Qhang Yao, Vi Tuong To, Giulia Mazzarelli, and Nicholas Colucci. Special thanks to Geri Vasely for organizing this event and making everything look so beautiful.

Click here for a link to the program
Above, from left to right: Gihang Yao, Erik Adolfsson, Hodo Duale, Nicholas Colucci, Sabiha Hossain, Robert DeLaurentis, Giulia Mazzarelli, Sabah Choudhury, Principal Steve Malkischer, and Vi Tuong To.

**ACE Students Present Concession Stand Plans**

At the May 21st Board of Education meeting, the Hudson Valley Chapter of the ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. (ACE stands for Architecture, Construction, Engineering), led by architect Michael Berta, AIA, presented a proposal for a future concession stand at the new Spackenkill track and field, part of the Capital Project. Students participating in the program come from several area schools. The students have been meeting at the high school since January and have worked in teams to come up with their plans.

Each group put together a presentation detailing the specifications and cost of their proposed concession stand. They also made summary statements about the strengths of their projects. "Our design concept is reasonably budgeted and incorporates unique elements that will create a special experience for students and spectators alike," wrote the Backbone architecture team, which includes Spackenkill students Robert DeLaurentis and Thomas and John Reardon. Team Rocket, which includes Spackenkill students Andrew O' Gorman, Ian Horvath, and Jake Donovan, wrote, "Our project balances cost and aesthetics to create a functional, durable building that will serve as a focal point of Spackenkill's new athletic facilities." Keith Holder and Logan O' Gorman also participate in the program. The students have come up with some very intriguing concepts, all completely different, as you'll see in the images that follow.
Cary Institute Returns to Todd

Todd science teachers Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Walsh, and Mrs. McGuire had the entire seventh grade participate in a study with The Cary Institute last week. They are studying the role of biodiversity in tick populations and Lyme disease. The students enjoyed the opportunity to work both in the classroom and outdoors on school grounds. A grant was obtained by Mrs. Joy to help fund this project.
Touring Their New School...With a Bonus Strings Lesson

On Monday, May 20th, second grade students visited Hagan to get to know the school they'll be attending in September. Principal John Farrell pointed out that they already knew many of the teachers. He also introduced the third grade teachers: Mrs. Talleur, Mrs. Stout, Mrs. Murin, Mrs. Katz, Mrs. Wishrad, and Mrs. Scoralick. During the visit, Ms. Valentine's Gold Strings students demonstrated their instruments to help the second graders decide if they wanted to play one in the near future. Together and separately, the students played violin, viola, cello, and bass (in order of highest to deepest sound). Notices went home with all second graders that day to sign up for the program. Please note that all students need to return their form, whether or not they choose to play an instrument in third grade. Another option is to play band in fourth grade. Chorus teacher Kody Andreas explained that students could participate in both chorus and strings next year and in fact it would make them even better musicians to do both!
(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@suftcny.org