Dear Spackenkill Community,

Driving over to Nassau ES, I was impressed to see the display of the American flags all over the immediate neighborhood. Thank you also Cub Scout Pack 223 for your involvement. Minutes later I was at Hagan ES, where a similar show of support for the 9/11 heroes, first responders, survivors, and their families was evident with flags hanging throughout the school. Each school held an appropriate remembrance during the school day.

Last night I met with the Elementary PTA and announced dates associated with the superintendent search process.

- **October 1st**: Three finalists will visit the district for a half day.
- **October 15th**: A mixed group of school stakeholders will conduct interviews.
- **October 23rd** from 6 – 8:15 PM: Superintendent candidates will introduce themselves and answer prepared questions for the community at large at the high school auditorium.
I am feeling a real positive vibe throughout the district and hope that you are having a similar experience.

My best,

[Signature]

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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**Remembering 9/11**

The 18th anniversary of 9/11 was recognized around the district this week. The Nassau community displayed flags in the vicinity of Nassau Elementary School, courtesy of Cub Scout Pack 223. Thank you to Cub Master Jef Cohen and all the scouts. The Nassau announcements screen also reminded students and staff of the anniversary. Hagan Elementary displayed flags in its hallways. At Todd, students observed a moment of silence during the morning announcements.

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*Above:* The 18th anniversary of 9/11 was observed at both elementary schools. At top, a display of flags at Hagan. At bottom, a display on the information screen in Nassau's lobby.

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**Surprise Visit**
Nassau kindergartner Elle Buyes got a big surprise today when her dad, Michael, visited her classroom. She hadn't seen him for two months, as he was in Army officer training at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Mrs. Cunningham's entire kindergarten class celebrated afterward with treats. **Click here to watch a short video of their reunion.**

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**Local Scholarship Benefits DCC Students**

Congratulations to 2019 Spackenkill graduate Yerelee Perez for being chosen as the recipient of the Marty Schreck Senior Book Award. Alumnus and local businessman Sam Schreck, class of 1979, started this scholarship eight years ago in memory of his father, Marty Schreck Sr., to benefit Spackenkill grads who will be attending Dutchess Community College. Recipients are chosen randomly and must meet specific criteria in order to be considered.

Every year, Mr. Schreck meets with each recipient and presents him or her with the scholarship money to be used at the DCC Bookstore. Proceeds for this award are obtained through the generous support of those participating in the company's annual golf fundraiser. As of this date, over $15,000 in books/food have been awarded to Spackenkill students.

*Above: Sam Schreck presents Yerelee Perez with a scholarship check to use for her studies at Dutchess Community College.*

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**From the School Health Office**
All required New York State immunizations records are due in the health office by September 18, 2019. Failure to comply with New York State requirements can lead to your child being excluded from school as of September 19, 2019. Any questions in regard to this can be directed to your child's school nurse.

Nora Bergstraser, MSN, RN (Nassau): 463-6390
Sharon Dooley-Russo, RN (Hagan): 463-8398
Alyssa Karcz, RN (Todd): 463-6527
Elizabeth Giancaspro, BSN, RN (SHS): 463-2043

Drivers Education Update
Drivers Education will be running in the spring. Registration will open in November. Information will be posted on the high school website. Please note: We need a minimum of 16 registrations to run the course.

Senior Is a National Merit Semifinalist
The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of 16,000 high school seniors who qualified as semi-finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. We are proud to announce that Sabah Choudhury (pictured with Principal Malikischer and Guidance Counselor Adam Hammond) was named as a semifinalist. Sabah will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 7,500 Merit Scholarship awards to be offered next spring. Congratulations on a job well done!

Middle School Chromebook Rollout
The Todd Chromebook rollout took place on Friday. Students assembled in the gymnasium after homeroom and Principal Dan Doherty reviewed the dos and don'ts of Chromebook ownership with them. Thank you to the Tech Department for having 376 Chromebooks ready to go! The process involved inventorying each Chromebook and then setting them up for students to use, both in school and at home.
Above: Students flocked to the library after lunch to use their new Chromebooks. An exciting difference this year is that the touch screens flip to tablet mode.

Open House at the Library

The high school library was an especially busy place on the evening of September 12th, when families visited for open house. Two Spackenkill alumni parents found their yearbooks on the library shelves! Mr. Calderone’s and Mrs. Fahy’s ninth grade English classes did a scavenger hunt in which they learned about all the resources available. Some moments are captured below.
Scenes from Carnegie Hall

In our June 14th issue of the last school year, we reported on choristers from the Spackenkill District traveling to Carnegie Hall in New York City with choral director Holden Maiorana to participate in the world premiere of a seven-movement masterwork for chorus and orchestra with Kirby Shaw, one of the most prolific choral composers of all time. Students Baylee Kramer, Macy Hammond, Brielle Duguid, Leo Herrera, John Ryan, and Johnny Mulcahy participated in a choir consisting of top groups from around the country as well as professional choirs from Germany, France, and Australia.

Now, Manhattan Concert Productions has provided the district with official photos from this prestigious event. Enjoy a few scenes below with Spackenkill students.
Above, top and bottom left: Johnny Mulcahy (left) and John Ryan take the stage. Top right: Macy Hammond (second from right) and Baylee Kramer (far right) perform. Middle right: Composer Kirby Shaw conducts. Bottom right: Overall view of legendary venue.

**First Day Smiles**

Mrs. Strapec's class had a great first day of second grade! The students enjoyed getting to know each other and making new friends. They want to wish everyone a wonderful school year!
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@suhsdny.org