Dear Spackenkill Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that I would also like to add a shout-out to Geri Vasely and Elizabeth Schwoerer for being selected as Field Hockey Coach of the Year and Player of the Year, respectively. Mrs. Vasely actually worked with me for a period of time when she filled a substitute high school secretarial position at John Jay, and I know first-hand what an enthusiastic and energetic person she is. Secondly, kudos to LEO Club and their advisor, Adam Hammond, for their dedication to our Adopt-a-Family program. In 1969 as a senior at Islip High School I became one of the first charter members of the LEO Club, so it’s so great to see how this organization has prospered over time. I’m also proud of the work with coding that’s occurring throughout the District and is showcased in the article concerning Computer Science Education Week. Todd Student Government is at it again, engaging our community with another fantastic event with our senior citizens. Good work guys and advisor Norma Vazquez! Finally, thank you STA for the great holiday party, bringing us together at this really important time of the year.

Next week we’re going to showcase the music program and the fantastic holiday performances across the District.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Interim/Acting Superintendent
Many families take advantage of the holiday breaks to travel to someplace warm and tropical. This year the Zika virus has been in the news due to outbreaks in many of those warm and tropical locations. If you are planning to escape this winter here is some information to keep in mind:

Zika is transmitted by mosquito bites. Prevention is key and you should take precautions to prevent being bitten. Long sleeves and pants as well as the use of mosquito repellant will give you a layer of protection.


Symptoms of Zika include fever, rash, muscle and joint pain, headache, and red eyes. Symptoms can last several days to a week. A blood test is done for diagnosis. There is no medication for Zika at this time. If you become symptomatic upon your return visit your physician and report that you have been out of the country.

Senior Citizens Holiday Breakfast

On December 9, Todd Student Government hosted senior citizens from the Spackenkill community at a holiday breakfast. The Todd Jazz Band (pictured near right), directed by Victor Catanzaro, provided musical entertainment for 37 guests. Poinsettias and cookies were raffle prizes. “Everybody had a wonderful time,” said advisor Norma Vazquez.

Message Regarding SchoolMessenger Updates

The SchoolMessenger notification system provides timely communication to parents and staff members on such matters as weather-related closings and delays, attendance, general-interest activities, and district emergencies.

We have updated SchoolMessenger to receive parent/guardian email addresses in addition to the home phone number. You should have received a letter in early December providing personalized instructions on how to create a SchoolMessenger account if you don’t already have one. With a SchoolMessenger account you can customize your contact preferences by adding phone numbers and emails. You can also opt out of calls or emails by unchecking the message types.

At this time we do not utilize the Survey message type. We encourage all families to set up a SchoolMessenger account so we can be contact you in the manner you prefer most.

STA Holiday Party

A big thank you to Kim Sottile (second from right) for organizing the successful District Holiday Party on December 9!