Dear Spackenkill Community,

I don’t think there’s anything more important than families. This Thursday, many of our students throughout our school district were brought to work by their parents on Take Your Child to Work Day, including some of our staff. A school district in many ways is like an extended family, and in every family when someone excels we all feel prideful in their accomplishments. So I want to add my congratulations to our valedictorian and salutatorian at the high school, Vincent Li and Susan Gong, and Skyler McBride selected as the BOCES CTI salutatorian. I think our parents, our students, and our staff should also take pride in the silver medal that Spackenkill has received this year from US News & World Report, which places us in approximately the top 10 percent of New York State high schools.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend fifth graders’ Sharpe Reservation trip. Despite the wet and rainy weather, the enthusiasm of our students, parent volunteers, and staff was noticeable. Getting your hands dirty in the outdoors is a good thing. Thank you teachers, support staff, parent volunteers, and especially Mr. Farrell for making this an annual tradition. Most schools make use of consultants to guide the activities, but our Hagan faculty planned all of the experiences.

As an aside we are looking to support the creation of a Spackenkill Alumni Association. If you have any interest in being included in the development of this group, please email either myself at mark.villanti@sufsdny.org or Mary Forse I at mary.forseI@sufsdny.org.

DON’T FORGET: BUDGET VOTE, TUESDAY, MAY 16!

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced

We are proud to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Spackenkill High School’s Class of 2017. Valedictorian Vincent Li will be attending Harvard College to pursue a career in either chemistry or computer science. Salutatorian Susan Gong will be attending Brooklyn College, enrolled in the BA/Pre-Med Program with a concentration in pre-med and an art major. They are pictured at left with SHS Principal Steve Malkischer.

Congratulations to both Vincent and Susan and their parents, Joyce and Wenjie Li and Sandy Zheng and Jason Gong, respectively.
Skyler McBride (left, with SHS Principal Steve Malkischer) has been named BOCES Career & Technical Institute’s Salutatorian for the Class of 2017. She will be attending Jacksonville University in the fall to pursue a career in nursing. Congratulations to Skyler and her parents, Susan and John McBride. Mrs. McBride is a teacher at Todd Middle School.

District Receives Leadership Award

On Thursday, April 20, the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange County Region recognized the Spackenkill District with a 2016 Business Leadership Award at an event at Anthony’s Pier 9 in Newburgh before an audience of some 500 community members. The district raised some $8,000 in a 2016 campaign, continuing the strong Spackenkill tradition of staff giving back and commitment to community. Shown above are Board of Education President Tom Keith (left) and Superintendent Dr. Villanti with the award in the District Office.

Spackenkill Named a Top High School

US News and World Report has named Spackenkill a top ranked high school in New

Students Learn Forensics

Officer Tom Keith of the Poughkeepsie Police Department recently offered high school students a lesson in forensics. Mr. Keith is
Science Research Strides

We previously reported on Daniel Busaba earned 1st place at the Dutchess Community College International Science and Engineering Fair on April 1, but there is more good news! Also at the DCC Fair, Vincent Li won the Ying Scholar Award for the project most likely to have a positive impact on society. He has been selected as one of four finalists statewide to present his research paper, "High Performance Cellulose Nanocrystal based Ultrafiltration Membranes for Treating Oil Contaminated Water," at SUNY OCC on Saturday on April 29.

Congratulations to our high school science winners!

MORE AWESOME EARTH DAY CONTRIBUTORS

Last week, we ran a story about the second graders decorating shopping bags for use on Earth Day at Adams Fairacre Farms in Poughkeepsie. Nassau teacher Deb Boyce coordinated the initiative and we thank her all her hard work!

At the high school on April 21, Varsity Track Coach and Environmental Club advisor Donna O'Sullivan organized the ground cleanup. The club and varsity track team participated in the clean up. Varsity Softball Coach Rachel Abrams had her team clean around the Nassau school (team pictured at left).

Take Your Child to Work Day Takes Off!

All over the district, staff brought their children to work on Thursday, April 27. Some pictures are below.
Left to right: At the District Office, bus driver Mitchell Turner spent the day with his granddaughter, Brianna, a 4th grader at Hagan. Technology Director Brett Hasbrouck showed Amelia around the buildings. At Todd Middle School, Mrs. Rogers is shown with son Aidan.


Nassau staff brought in family to help out in the classroom. Left to right: Mrs. West's niece Isabella visited her kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Bergstraser's daughter, Amelia, taught a math lesson. Mrs. Blazek with her children (left to right) Amelia, Catalina, and Jackson.
Culinary arts and science have collided at Todd Middle School. Over the past two years, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Antonelli, and Ms. Ott have been working on an Herb Project with their inclusion classes. The students have been a part of the entire process, from gathering the soil composed of worm castings from the Red Wigglers that live in Mrs. Pink’s worm box in the 6th grade and planting the seeds, to taste-testing the pesto sauce in the cafeteria. Over the next few weeks, the Todd community will be sampling food that will be made with herbs that were grown by Mrs. Rogers’s and Ms. Ott’s class. This week the students helped pluck the basil from the plants to be used in a basil pesto sauce. On Thursday, the class visited the cafeteria to see how the fresh grown basil from Room 15 will be used for the daily lunch. See the classes and teachers at work below, smelling and tasting the basil.

Hagan Students Enjoy Outdoor Adventures

Fifth Graders from Hagan Elementary took a trip to Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill last week, where they participated in activities that help them to learn about the environment through hands-on learning experiences in an outdoor setting. Some photos of that trip are below:
2nd Graders Journey to the Past

Second graders went on a trip to Philipsburg Manor Historic Site last week. Students explored colonial life in a tour that focused on sensory experiences. They visited the colonial manor house, including a kitchen area filled with touchable objects, and discussed how homes today differ from those centuries ago. Students had the chance to visit the barn, farm, and mill, too. They also participated in actual work that would have been done on site 250 years ago. It was an enjoyable experience for all! Some photos of the trip are below.
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 maryforsell@sfsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website: www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive