Dear Spackenkill Community,

Let me begin by thanking those of you who took the time to write to the Governor asking him to sign our amnesty bills. We appreciate your efforts. Please do not stop writing. We need more public pressure to influence the Governor to "do the right thing" and sign our bills!

In addition, the updated Niche.com ratings for schools are out, and again Spackenkill has received top grades for each of our schools. Thank you teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, and, most of all, our students! You continue not only to be rated the #1 district, but also the #1 school in Dutchess County: High, Middle, and Elementary Schools!

Our next Board meeting is October 8th, next Tuesday. Our external auditor will present the draft audit report as prescribed by state law at 6:30 pm. The meeting starts at 7 pm at Orville Todd Middle School Library.

Just a reminder: Schools are closed next Wednesday in observance of Yom Kippur.

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Updated Niche Ratings: District is #1!

The new Niche ratings have come out, and once again, it's another clean sweep for Spackenkill: Number #1 High School, #1 Middle School, #1 and #2 Elementary School (Hagan, 1, Nassau, 2) and #1 District in Dutchess County! Click on the image below to access the full report.

Commended Students in Top 5%

National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced the names of some 34,000 commended students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. We are proud to announce that Erik Adolfsson and Qiang Yeo are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance. Commended students place among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT. Congratulations to both of you on this significant achievement.
Screenagers Sparks Discussion & Debate

PTA and PTSA Sponsor Evening Screening for Parents & Students

Thanks to the efforts of the Spackenkill Counseling Staff and the support of the PTSA and PTA, students in grades six through 12 watched the movie Screenagers on October 2nd. The documentary depicts the addictive effect of screen time on adolescents and explores ways to set healthy boundaries. At the high school, students gathered in the auditorium for the showing and later discussed in classrooms. At the middle school, students watched in classrooms and then broke out into groups to discuss what resonated for them and what they learned. They also talked about the idea of having a parent-child contract to set boundaries for screen time. That evening, the PTSA and PTA also sponsored a showing of Screenagers at the high school auditorium. Students in grades four and up were encouraged to attend with their parents.
Above: High school students watch Screenagers.

Above: Middle school students engage in conversation among themselves and with their teachers after viewing the documentary.

**Hagan Readers Stock Up at Book Fair**

This week's Scholastic Book Fair at Hagan got students excited about reading. Every class visited the fair and had ample time to peruse the titles. Some students couldn't wait to get started and began reading their purchases before they even left the gymnasium. Thank you as always to the wonderful PTA volunteers who make this book fair possible. The volunteers not only set up the fair and explained the procedures to the students, but they also helped them choose appropriate books for their reading level and interests.
Winter Sports Registration

Students can register for a winter sport on the Family ID website. The winter season starts November 11th for all Varsity and JV sports and November 18th for all modified sports.

Online winter sports registration opens:
October 14, 2019 for all high school sports (JV and Varsity)
October 21, 2019 for all middle school sports (modified)

Click on the link below to register:
http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics

A Daily Dose of Kindness

Mrs. Strapec's class spent the month of September getting used to the routines and the responsibilities of second grade. They also spent a lot of time talking about how to be a good classroom and community citizen. The discussion of being kind to others was woven into daily lessons and as a class Mrs. Strapec's second graders are spreading around the slogan: "A Daily Dose of Kindness will keep your heart feeling well." The students understand that not only is it nice to have someone be kind to them but also how it makes them feel good inside when they are nice to others as well. On a daily basis Mrs. Strapec is noticing students trying to help each other and she is hearing them use kind words. Some things she has observed is someone helping to tie someones shoelaces, another student helping a student open a juice bag and students are helping each other if they drop something. Keep up the great work!
15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY

(945) 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