A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent

One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

September 20, 2024

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Today, Dutchess BOCES announced that they received an internet threat and were dismissing students early. This only impacted students who are attending Dutchess BOCES programs, which include CTI, Special Education, and BETA programs. All Spackenkill Schools remained open today with students following their normal schedules. We want to assure you that the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We will continue to monitor the situation closely. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

At our Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Spackenkill High School English teacher Danielle Williams and Nassau Elementary School teaching assistant Jennifer Donovan received tenure. Congratulations to both!



Above: Spackenkill High School English Teacher Danielle Williams and Nassau Elementary School teaching assistant Jennifer Donovan received tenure. They are pictured with family members and their principals.

As a followup to last week's James Earl Jones photo, we heard from several members of the Spackenkill community. Recently retired Nassau teacher Deb Ravas sent us the photo below from the 1978-1979 school year, which depicts Mr. Jones and Mrs. Ravas's mother, former Nassau teacher Barb Federman, who is standing with Mrs. Ravas's little brother. Also pictured is former

librarian Mrs. Eva Von Ancken and representatives from the PTA and Girl Scouts. Mrs. Von Ancken invited Mr. Jones to speak to the students after the release of *Star Wars.* She is fondly remembered by Janet (Smith) Johnson (class of '87) as someone who “successfully worked to generate new and more avid readers each year.”

Community member and Spackenkill alumnus Richard Trent (class of ‘81) kindly posted our question about Mr. Jones’s visit on the Spackenkill Classes 1974-84 Facebook page, and Greg Berkin (class of '81) replied: “I remember his visit very well! JEJ answered questions about his movie roles, he spoke about his stuttering, and he spoke a great deal about acting on stage! A true stage actor. Years later, I filmed several interviews with him and I traveled to his house in Pawling. What a spectacular place. He was very gracious and curious about our drama department and our plays. Several of us traveled to see him in *Fences* on Broadway. He greeted us after the show and signed programs. We will miss him greatly! Thank you for a lifetime of inspiration and wonderful performances, James Earl Jones!” Thank you, Mr. Trent and Mr. Berkin, for sharing these thoughts and memories!



Above: Actor James Earl Jones on a visit to Nassau. Immediately to his left is librarian Eva Von Ancken and teacher Barb Federman with her son. The other women in the photo are thought to be representatives from the PTA and the Girl Scouts.



Above: Shared by Nadine Goldberg-Rothman (class of ‘87), this photo was also taken in front of the school on that special day. We are grateful to everyone who responded to our question about Mr. Jones’s visit.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists Announced

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. We are proud to announce that senior Max Victor is Spackenkill High School's semifinalist this year. Max will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 6,870 National Merit Scholarship awards to be offered next spring. Congratulations on a job well done!



Above: National Merit Scholarship semifinalist Max Victor pictured with SHS Principal Steve Malkischer.

Athletics News

The School of Excellence designation is awarded to schools that had 75% of their varsity programs qualify for and receive the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Team Award during the 2023-24 school year. Once again, Spackenkill qualified for this recognition and was honored at the NYSPHSAA workshop on September 9th. Congratulations to our students, coaches, and teachers!



Above: Director of Athletics Marco Lanzoni *(back row, far left)* is pictured with representatives from the other Section IX schools that qualified.

Director of Athletics Marco Lanzoni shares that at Todd Middle School, half of the 7th and 8th graders are involved in a fall sport, numbering 132 participants. Enjoy some photos of them at practice last week.




UNDER


6





Five photos above: Todd student athletes at sports practice last week.

Enjoying the Outdoors

Our elementary school playgrounds have been busy, as students are making the most of nice stretches of weather.




1



Three photos above: Recess fun at Nassau includes gaga ball, activity cones and baskets, and stepper toys.




10





Three photos above: Hagan students expend energy outdoors through sports and playground games.

High School Clubs Kick Off

High school clubs are forming and making big plans for the school year ahead.



Above: LEO Club fills the chorus room at its first meeting with advisor Adam Hammond.


QUEBEC
RUE PALK



Two photos above: French Club is always popular. Madame Hart hosted the first meeting last Wednesday.



Collage above: Held in art teacher and advisor Mr. Romani's room, the Art Club's first activity of the school year was to create floral collages that celebrate the end of summer and the start to the new school year. Mr. and Mrs. Romani and their sons obtained the beautiful flowers from high school science teacher Jennifer Maloney's garden and pressed them at home. The artworks are made to fit

into envelopes, which can be used to keep them from being damaged and/or can be used to be shared via snail mail. “The students really seemed to enjoy the activity and it inspired some of the staff to bring in flowers from their gardens for me to press,” said Mr. Romani. Last summer, he attended a nature and art workshop on Governor's Island and learned pressed flower technique, inspiring him to make 15 flower presses at home!





Enjoy a wonderful fourth week of school!

Sincerely,

Paul M. Fanuele, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Please see flyer(s) that may be of interest:

DCC College Fair

Softball Car Wash Fundraiser

K-6 Softball Skills Clinic

Dia Teens Application 2024-2025 Due September 25

Spackenkill Union Free School District

15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; 845-463-7800

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