



**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL ONE
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**



Vol. XXXXI, No. 5

January 1, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Happy New Year!!! On behalf of the School One staff, we wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2025!!! Please make sure that each day your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, as we do try to go outside for recess as often as we can. I hope that the winter season will be kind to us, and that hazardous winter weather conditions will be minimal.

A special thank you goes out to our School One staff and families for making our *Flurries of Kindness* gift giving event a success. We were able to bring lots of holiday cheer to our families in need. Thank you to our PTA for donating gift-wrapping items, organizing and wrapping the gifts. We are grateful for all of your support.

The Kids Care Club brightened the season for residents at The Mire Vie Senior Living Center in Fanwood this year with their holiday sing-a-long. Ms. Voyack, Mrs. Bennett and Ms. D'Antuono along with the 4th Grade Kids Care members delivered some holiday cheer along with small holiday gifts to the residents. In addition, I would like to thank our School One community for supporting the Moms Helping Moms Foundation for your generous donations for underserved children. Our School One staff, students, and families rock!

January promises to be a busy month for our staff and students, below are some dates to remember:

IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 1st - Schools Closed in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday
- January 10th - PTA 4th Gr. BINGO Night
- January 17th - PTA Beyond School Explorers
- January 20th - Schools Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 23rd - PTA Meeting (Important Referendum Presentation)
- January 24th - PTA Beyond School Explorers
- January 28th - 4th Grade Winter Music Concert
- January 29th - School Closed for Students in observance of the Lunar New Year
- January 31st - PTA Beyond School Explorers



WINTER MUSIC PROGRAM: On **Tuesday, January 28th**, under the direction of Ms. Caroline Voyack and Mr. Joseph Reo, our fourth-grade chorus and instrumental music students will present our Winter Music Concert.

The evening will be held at **Nettingham Middle School**. Student arrival is scheduled for **6:45 p.m.** with the performance beginning at **7:00 p.m.** Please enter the building via the Main Entrance.

We cordially invite our school community to attend this musical event and hope that you will find it to be an enjoyable program.

WINTER WEATHER UPDATE: The Scotch Plains-Fanwood District will utilize the BrightArrow Notification System for instant alert messages. This system will be used for school closings and/or emergency early dismissals. *It is important that if there is a change in your home phone number, cell phone number, email address, or emergency contact numbers, that you notify the School One office.*



In addition to the BrightArrow Instant Alert Notification, announcements will be carried on Radio Station 101.5 FM, and on TV Stations WNBC (Channel 4) and NJ12. Internet notice will be posted on the District website at www.spfk12.org beginning at 6:30 a.m. on any given day that schools are closed for an emergency.

Please consult and keep handy the delayed opening schedule below:

DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE		
Grade	Arrival	Dismissal
Morning Pre-K	10:05 a.m.	12:15 p.m.
Afternoon Pre-K	1:00 p.m.	3:10 p.m.
Grades K-4	10:05 a.m.	3:10 p.m.

Students in morning Pre-K and Grades K through 4, are requested to arrive no earlier than 9:55 a.m. Dismissal time stays the same. **STUDENTS MUST REMAIN IN SCHOOL FOR THEIR LUNCH PERIOD.**

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES SHOULD MEET THEIR BUS AT THE SAME BUS STOP EXACTLY 1 1/2 HOURS LATER THAN THE NORMAL TIME.

Please keep these times at hand so that you can refer to them should there be a delayed opening schedule.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND TRAFFIC PATTERNS: Thank you to all of our parents/guardians who have cooperated with our school's traffic patterns and township laws.

- Observe the areas posted "No Parking" and "No U-Turn" when transporting your child to and from school.
- Do not park, drop off, or pick up your child on the opposite side of Willow Avenue, across from the school.
- When pulling up to drop off your child in front of the school, please stay approximately three feet from the curb. This will allow room to open car doors and keep pedestrians on the sidewalk safe. *(If road conditions are dangerous with rain, sleet, or snow, you may pull up to curb side, but please be careful of our pedestrians as your child departs the vehicle.)*
- Have your child exit the vehicle through the **passenger side door** so as to reach the sidewalk in a safe manner.
- Remain in line when dropping your children off in the morning. Do NOT attempt to get in front of other vehicles that are preparing to return back into traffic.
- **We kindly ask Pre-K parents to obey the bus pick-up and drop-off areas during arrival and dismissal at 11:20 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. to ensure the utmost safety of our students.**

- Do not use the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up students. *(If there is a medical situation that necessitates the use of a handicap parking area, parents/guardians are to write a letter indicating that special consideration be given for the use of the parking area and provide documentation to support this request.)*
- **Do not park your car in the staff parking lot while visiting school.**

Your cooperation with these requests is very much appreciated.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Attendance at school is imperative for student learning and will be taken daily. It is important that students are logged in on time (8:35 a.m.) to their respective class each day that school is in session to ensure continuity of instruction unless illness or emergency prevents their attendance. Please remember to call the School One Attendance Line when your child is going to be absent. Below are options to report your student absence.

**For student absence, tardy, early pick-up,
dismissal change, please use one of the following
preferably by 8:00 a.m.**

EMAIL

SCHOOLONENABSENCE@SPFK12.ORG

SCHOOL ONE ATTENDANCE LINE

(908) 322-7731, Press 1

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

<https://spf.powerschool.com>

You may also send an email to Mrs. Meaghan Eschbacher at meschbacher@spfk12.org or Mrs. Christina O'Brien at cobrien@spfk12.org. If we do not hear from you to report your child's absence, we will call you. Should we be unable to contact you, the police may be called for assistance.

When you call the attendance line, email or enter the information in the PowerSchool Portal, please include your child's name, grade, your child's teacher's name, and a detailed reason for your child's absence.

SMART WATCHES: Smart watches have become useful tools that some families have provided for their children at School One. Our procedure for students with these devices is to have them placed in students' backpacks throughout the day. Students are free to put them back on at the end of the day for dismissal. Should you need to contact your child throughout the day, please call the main office. Thank you for your cooperation!



REQUEST FROM THE MEDIA CENTER: The library would like to gently remind parents to assure that lunch and water bottle containers are on tight. It has been noticed that many library books are being returned soiled or wet from snacks, lunch items, and water bottles that open in the students' backpacks. We appreciate your help.

MILK MONEY: Pre-K milk money for the month of FEBRUARY will be collected on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH**, in the amount of **\$15.00 (19 days x \$.75)**. A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, January 6th. *Please complete the form and return with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPF BOE) in a sealed envelope.*



Please indicate your child's milk choice for the upcoming month (fat free, low fat, low-fat chocolate or low-fat strawberry). Pre-K students participating in the free-milk program MUST submit an order form.

LUNCH PROGRAM (GRADES K - 4): School lunches are \$3.70 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$3.00. A copy of the January menu can be found on the district website. Gluten-free menus are available by request only. Please contact the Main Office if you would like to receive a copy.

For easy service, students should have balances on their PaySchool accounts to purchase lunch from the food service lines. To register for an account, please visit www.payschoolscentral.com. Cash and checks (payable to the Scotch Plains BOE) are accepted. Please be sure to provide an envelope marked with your child's name and "Lunch Money" clearly printed.

Please keep in mind that the school is unable to provide refrigeration for lunches brought from home or heat lunches that students bring to school.

If you have any comments about the school lunch program, you may email Pomptonian Food Service at comments@pomptonian.com. Please direct any inquiries to Mr. DelBane at (908) 889-7333.

